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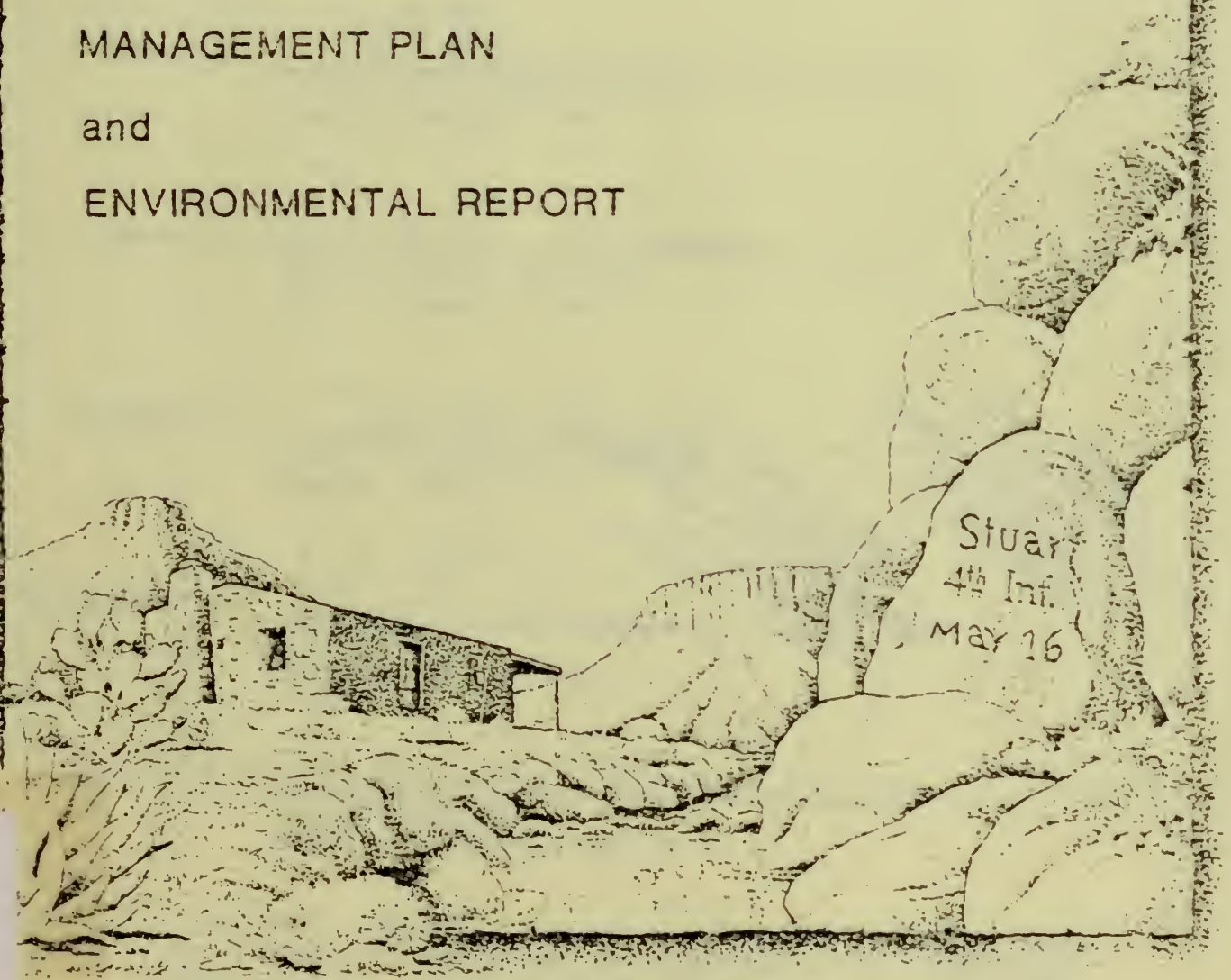
ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT



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CAMP ROCK SPRING

AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN (ACEC)

MANAGEMENT PLAN

April 1981

Prepared by the

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
California Desert District
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District Manager
California Desert District

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The Philadelphia Company at Camp Rock Spring, 1862.

THE ACEC CONCEPT

The vastness of the California Desert contains many areas endowed by nature or man with characteristics that set them apart. These areas may be special because of unusual diversity of plan or animal life, unique geological features or fossil deposits, rare concentrations of the remains of prehistoric or historic use and occupation, or other significant values. The Bureau of Land Management conducts two programs which address these areas: Areas of Critical Environmental Concern and Special Areas.

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), in Section 103(a), defines an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) as an area "...within the public lands where special management attention is required (when such areas are developed or used or where no development is required) to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources, or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards."

The ACEC designation is more than a recognition program; it is a process for determining what special management certain important environmental resources or hazards require and for priority commitment that this management will be provided. Management prescriptions are developed for each area proposed for ACEC designation prior to designation. The requirements are site-specific and may include actions which BLM has authority to carry out, including posting signs, patrolling, and fencing, and recommendations for actions which BLM does not have direct authority to implement, such as cooperative agreements with other agencies and mineral withdrawals.

The California Desert Plan designated some 75 ACECs. Management prescriptions for ACECs augment and bring more specificity to the multiple-use class guidelines for the areas in which they are located. Rock Spring was identified as an ACEC in the California Desert Plan (approved, 1981) and the basic management prescriptions are contained in Appendix C of that plan. The prescriptions for ACEC #32, CAMP ROCK SPRING, are developed in the following management plan.

The photograph above is by R. d'Heureuse (original in Bancroft Library).

Purpose

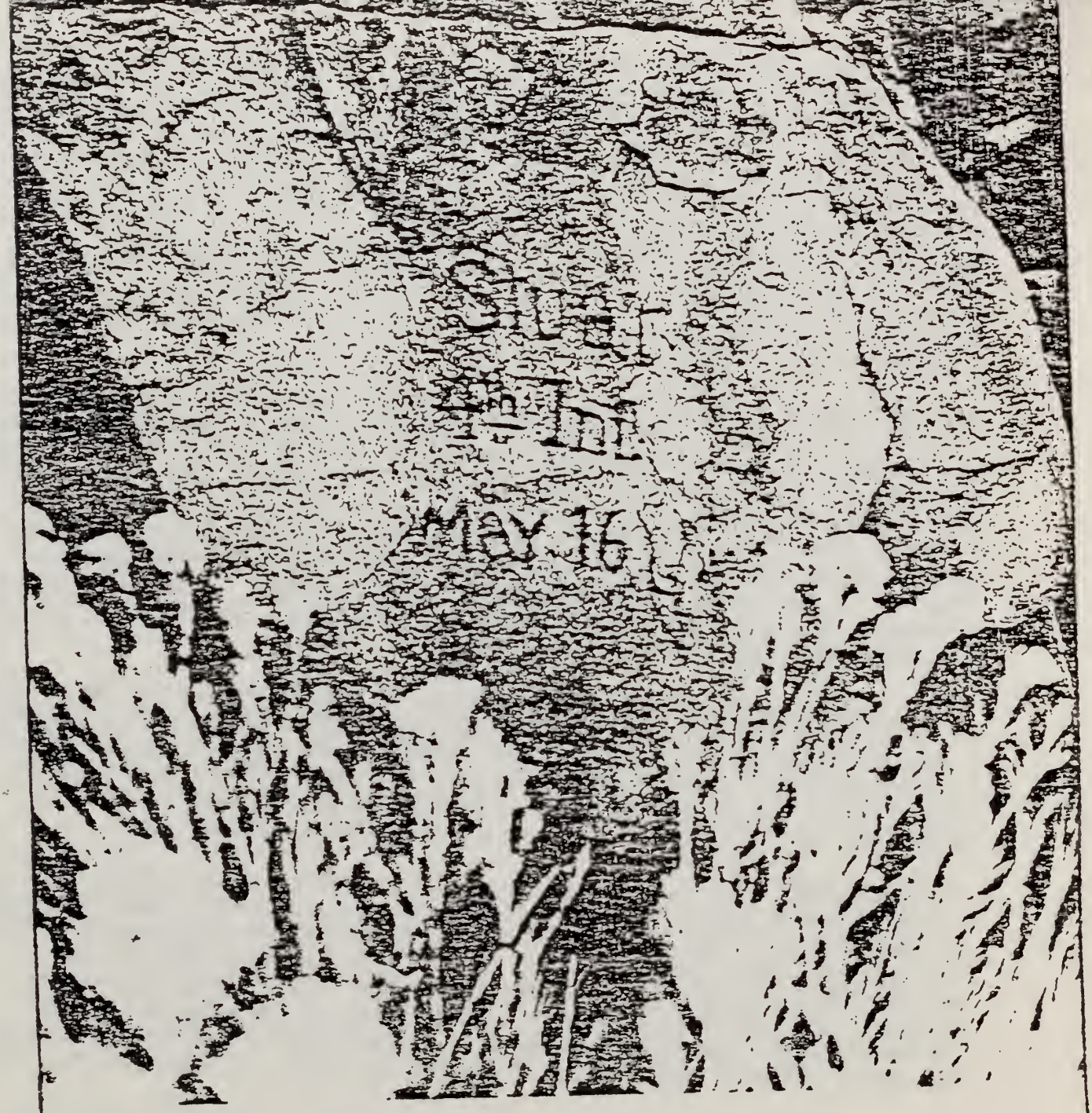
Historic Camp Rock Spring, one of several military posts and the only official United States Army Camp between Camp Cady and Fort Mojave on the "Mojave Road", was occupied for a period of a little more than a year from December 30, 1866 until January 2, 1868. Then from January 2, 1868, until May 21, 1868, it was maintained as a small outpost of Camp Cady. For thousands of years prior to that time, the spring and the "Mojave Road" (then only a trail) was inhabited and used by prehistoric people who left behind remnants of their material culture in the form of stone tools and petroglyphs. The juxtaposition of the historic army post on the prehistoric deposits, coupled with the scenic values of the area yields a site of high interest to the desert visitor. Here, wildlife can be seen drinking at the natural spring with Pinto Mountain forming a majestic scenic backdrop.

The designation of Rock Spring in the California Desert Plan as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), requiring special management attention, was prompted by several factors. Incremental loss to the resources caused by vandalism and theft has increased markedly in recent years. New graffitti, both pecked into and painted over the prehistoric petroglyphs is becoming a regularity. These petroglyphs have also been used for target practice. Campers using the site have moved boulders and rocks from their original location in the outpost structures to create fire pits. Others, looking for treasures, have left the site pockmarked and defaced. Historic and prehistoric artifacts have been removed without permit.

Public awareness of the site has increased in recent years with the publication of seven books and numerous magazine and newspaper articles which describe the exact location of the site. Rock Spring is the most accessible site along the Mojave Road, located only 1/8 mile off of Cedar Canyon Road, a major access route in the Eastern Mojave Desert. The easy access to the site makes Rock Spring the most vulnerable site along the Mojave Road.

At the present time, natural erosion is also taking its toll on the ACEC. A flash flood through the area (see Figures 14 a, b, and c) swept away tons of sand from the site and a large portion of the lower camp area; the flood left a steep sandy loam bank which is beginning to erode back to the petroglyphs and remains of the fort structures. Left alone, the natural processes of erosion most probably would reuslt in the eventual loss of the remainder of the encampment area. This process is accelerated by cattle and people climbing upon the bank, causing the bank to slide down into the wash.

Camping is also a problem; camper presence frightens wildlife and cattle dependent upon the water which Rock Spring provides. At the present time, there is nothing to inhibit camping immediately adjacent to the water and the site of the old since vehicles can easily access these areas.



This soldier inscription is located near Rock Spring. For many years its meaning tantalized but eluded historians. Detailed research in military records in the National Archives has revealed that one Musician Charles Stuart of Company "B" 4th Infantry, California Volunteers, was at this spot on May 16, 1863. This was one of the companies sent to regarrison Fort Mojave during the Civil War. The fort was officially reestablished on May 19, 1863. Stuart's company -- along with Company "I" of the same regiment--had spent the night of May 16/17 camped at Rock Spring on their way from Drum Barracks to Fort Mojave.

Figure 2: Reprinted with permission from Casebier (Norco: Tales of the Mojave Road Pub. Co., 1975).

Despite these difficulties, Camp Rock Spring has been rated in the East Mojave Unit Resource Analysis (USDI, Bureau of Land Management, 1976) as having the highest interpretive and sightseeing potential of cultural sites in the East Mojave. It received maximum points for preservation, representational type, authenticity, interpretive potential and sightseeing potential.

The Camp Rock Spring ACEC Management Plan is designed and proposed as a means to protect the vulnerable and non-renewable resources at the site. There are remedies for the problems of vandalism, theft and misuse which hinge upon greater visitor control at the site through patrolling and signing. By enhancing the visitor's awareness of the resources which need protection, it is hoped that the visitor will experience a sense of involvement in the protection effort. This can be achieved through the educational and interpretive program presented in this plan. The processes of natural erosion and wear can be checked by simple physical measures which could reinforce the existing natural land form at the site.

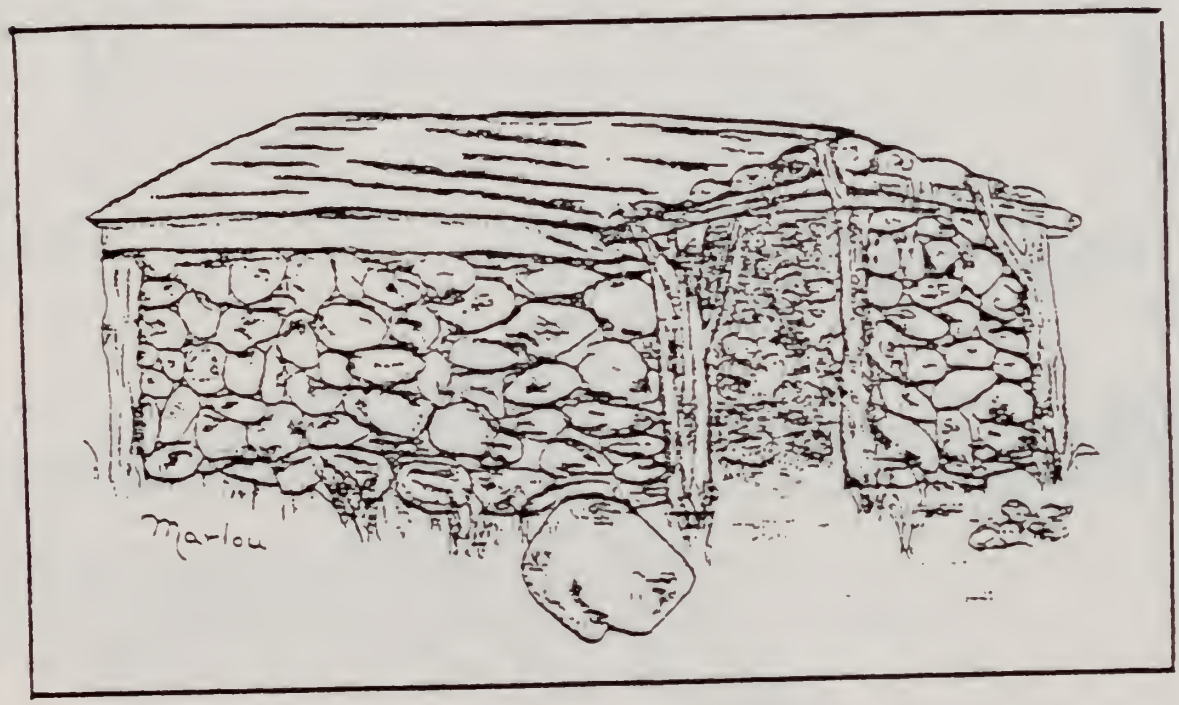
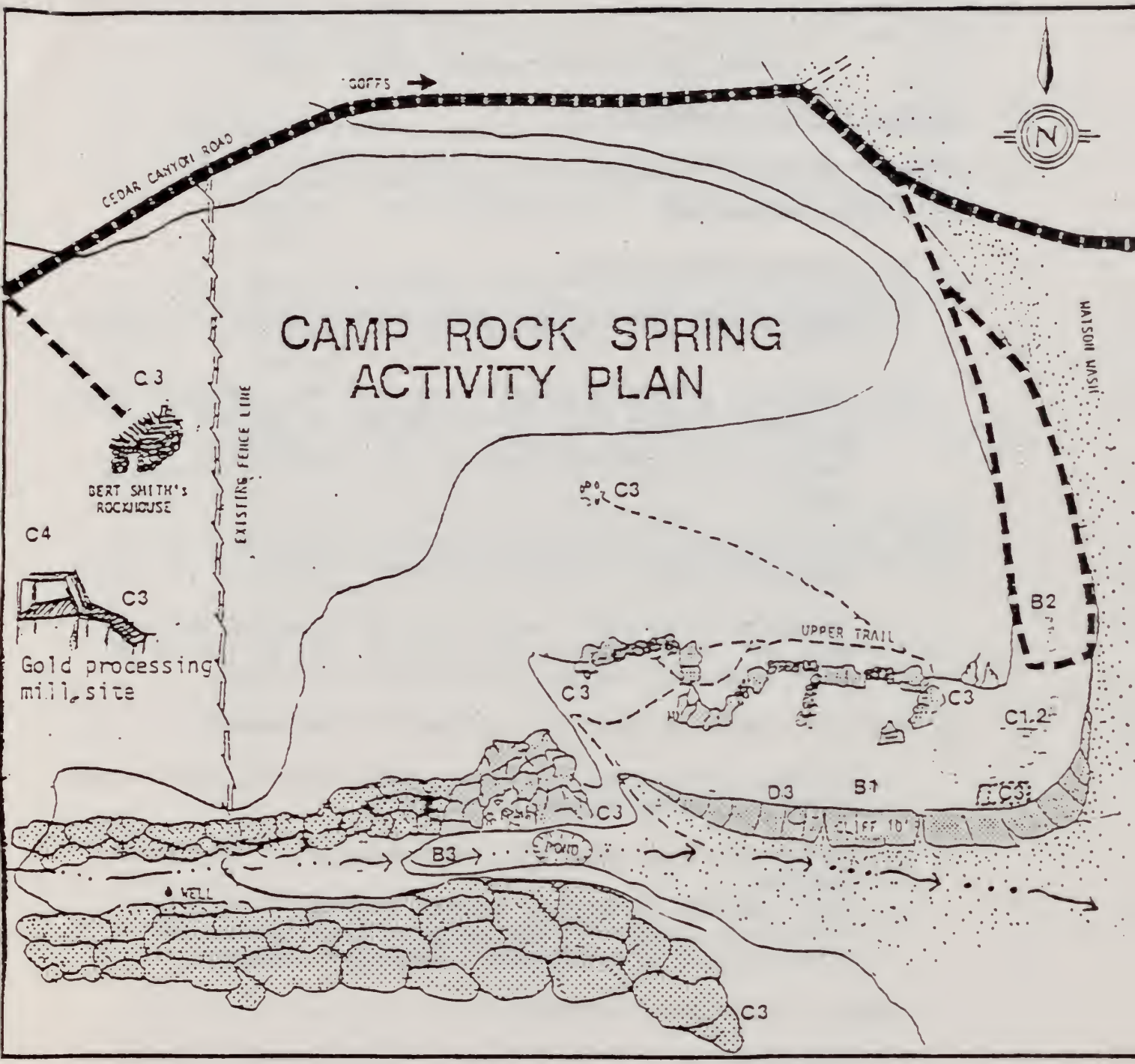


Figure 3: Marlou Casebier's conception of what the Camp Rock Spring quarters may have looked like. (Reprinted with permission from Casebier (Norco: Tales of the Mojave Road Publishing Co., 1975: 46).

II. Management Objectives

Objectives of this management plan are: 1) to provide for the protection and stabilization of the cultural and related natural resources remaining in the ACEC, 2) to provide interpretive materials (such as brochures, signs and reconstruction) that will enhance a visitor's experience at Camp Rock Spring thereby educating the public and furthering protective efforts at the ACEC, and 3) to systematically monitor the preservation of the significant cultural resources and the compatibility of other allowed uses with these resources.



Figures 4: Camp Rock Spring Management Plan Map. Refer to Section III, "Summary of Major Recommendations" for a description of the activities keyed to the lettered locations on the map above.

III. Summary of Major Recommendations

For more detail refer to Section VI "Planned Actions."

A. Protection Measures:

1. Increase Ranger Patrol.

2. Nominate Camp Rock Spring to the National Register of Historic Places.

3. Complete a protective mineral withdrawal from subsequent entry; an interim measure until this withdrawal is complete is to grant a Right-of-Way to the Bureau of Land Management for the area included in the ACEC to protect it from successive rights.

4. Collect surface artifacts and retain in a Camp Rock Spring study collection.

5. Designate the area as a safety zone and recommend that the Dept. of Fish and Game close the spring area to hunting in order to control indiscriminate shooting practices.

B. Protection Measures which will include site improvements:

1. Create a parking area by closing access into the major portion of the site using wood posts and cable.

2. Install two trash receptacles in parking area. Service as necessary.

3. Repair and modify existing concrete catchment basins in Rock Spring Canyon. (mitigation/enhancement measure for wildlife-refer to Environmental Assessment Document).

C. Protection/Interpretive Measures:

1. Design and construct an informational sign board next to parking area.

2. Design an interpretive brochure to be made available at the informational sign board. This brochure will include a self-guided tour with interpretive information about Camp Rock Spring keyed to numbered wooden posts erected along existing trails at the site. A map of the site and historic photographic coverage will also be included in the brochure.

3. Erect numbered interpretive posts keyed to the self-guided tour included in the interpretive brochure. These will be small, non-obtrusive wood posts planted in the ground. Foot trails to these posts would be periodically raked and maintained if necessary.

4. Complete a cooperative agreement with land owners which would allow for the protection and interpretation of "Bert Smith's Place" located adjacent to Camp Rock Spring.

D. Monitoring Resource Status

1. Inventory resources using photographs, sketches and locational mapping - key photographs into a master map of resource locations.

2. Monitor vandalism, theft and damage to petroglyphs by instituting a regular patrol and baseline monitoring program to be coordinated with the Visitor Services program.

3. Monitor rate of erosion of bank below petroglyph panels and old tunnel. If rate of erosion is significant, design and implement flood control measures in the wash.

4. Monitor water availability and usage in Rock Spring Wash. If visitor usage of the ACEC inhibits wildlife and cattle watering, amend this plan to include action to pipe water to an area not visible from visitor use areas.

IV. Background and Resource Summary

Camp Rock Spring is located 1/8 mile from Cedar Canyon Road in the New York Mountain Range of the East Mojave Desert. It lies within Section 1 of T. 12N., R. 15E. SBBM, on public land in San Bernardino County. The site is approximately 12 miles from the BLM-maintained Midhills Campground. The nearest town is Cima, California which boasts a small grocery store and post office. The ACEC Activity Plan will involve 665 acres of public land and pending a cooperative agreement with the adjacent private land owners or through land acquisition, the ACEC could potentially involve an additional 10 acres of land.

The purpose for acquiring the additional acreage or developing a cooperative agreement would be for interpretive and protection purposes. The historical site adjacent to Camp Rock Spring, usually referred to as "Bert Smith's place", is considered to be an integral part of the interpretive program at Rock Spring. Without it, the history of the site would be incomplete. This structure has potential for use as a small interpretive center at which BLM Interpretive personnel could be stationed. (Also see land status section).

Geographically, Rock Spring lies within a hilly range between Lanfair and Round Valleys. North of Rock Spring are the spectacular Pinto Mountains with their alternating volcanic materials that are separated by stark color contrasts. South of the ACEC is Table Mountain ("Table-top"), a natural land mark which can be viewed throughout much of the East Mojave. Rock Spring is situated along a fault and sheltered by high granitic cliffs on either side. The spring has been perennially active throughout the historic period.

The following resource summaries are provided to give a brief overview of key concerns within the ACEC:

A. Access Roads and Trails Designations

Today, Rock Spring is the most accessible of the historic outposts along the Mojave Road in the eastern Mojave Desert. A well graded county road, Cedar Canyon road, leads to within a few hundred yards of the site. Immediate access is down an unimproved and un-designated route between Watson Wash and a hill that blocks the view of Camp Rock Spring from the County Road. This access route is usually sandy and sometimes not passable with two-wheel drive vehicles. This road provides access to the bench where the Camp once stood. This plan recommends action to stop vehicular use of the bench by approving use of this road only up to a barricaded point immediately outside of the fort area (see VI-B). One may also drive directly to the spring by driving down Watson Wash which crosses Cedar Canyon Road and driving up Rock Spring wash.

Another route of access is by parking at Bert Smith's place on the hill above Rock Spring and approaching the site on foot by walking down Rock Spring Wash. Neither of these routes are approved roads or trails.

Cedar Canyon Road is usually accessed either by Cima Road from I-15 at the Valley Wells off-ramp, or from Baker taking the Kelbaker road to Kelso, then north on the Kelso-Cima Road.

From I-40, Cedar Canyon Road is accessed either via the Kelbaker Road to the Kelso-Cima Road, or via Essex Road to Black Canyon Road, or by way of Lanfair Road from Goffs.

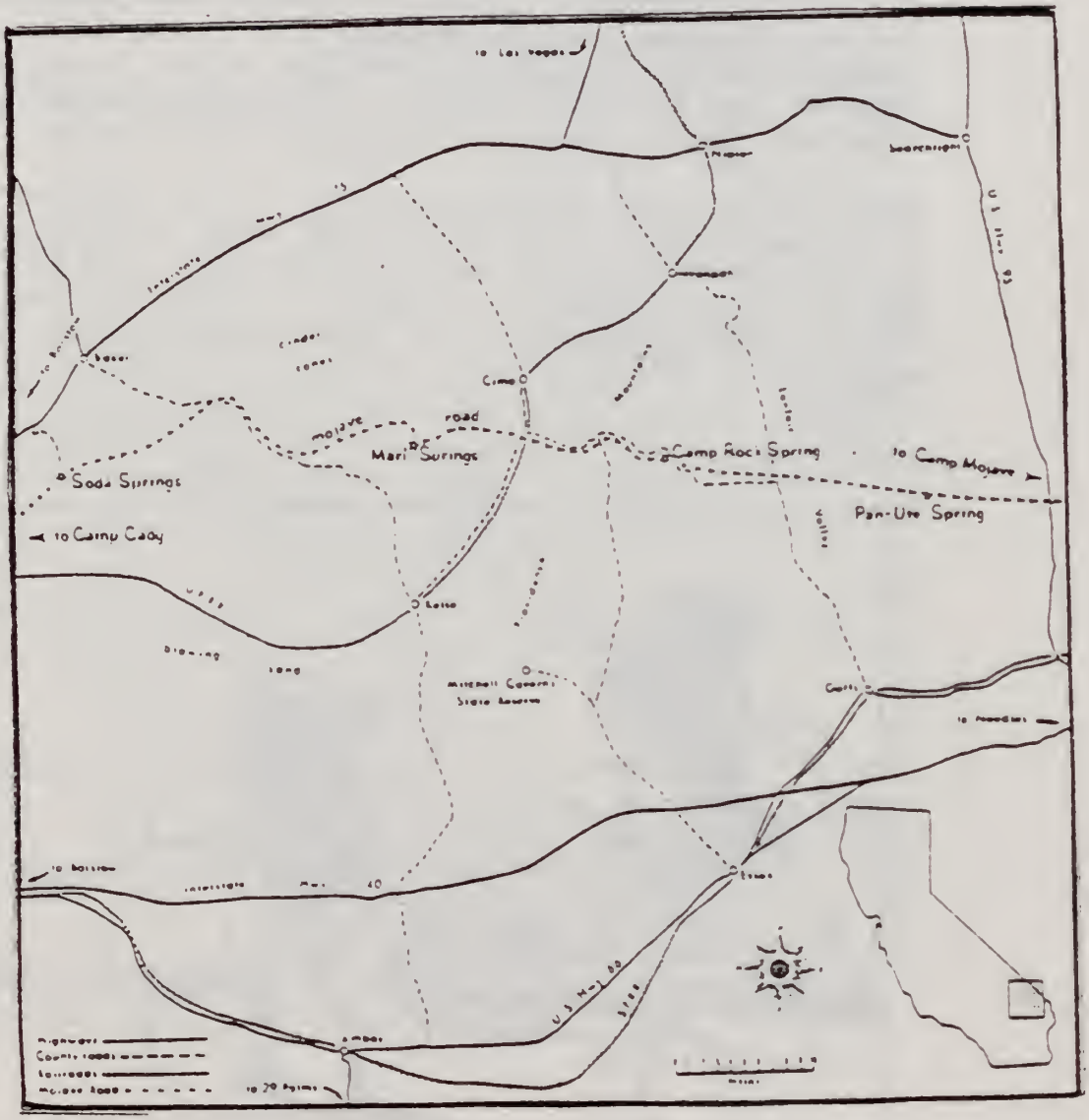


Figure 5: Routes of Access to Rock Spring. Reprinted with permission from Casebier (Norco: Mojave Road Publishing Company, 1975:95).

B. Present Status and Use

Camp Rock Spring ACEC is located in the heart of the East Mojave National Scenic Area as designated in the California Desert Plan (1981). Although Rock Spring itself is located in the NW¼ of the NW¼ of Section 1, T. 15N., R. 15E., the ACEC involves most of Section 1. The ACEC is located within an area designated for "limited use" in the California Desert Plan (1980). It includes an estimated 665 acres of land.

The OX Cattle Company is presently leasing the Lanfair Valley Grazing Allotment which encompasses Rock Spring ACEC. The Company also controls the water rights at Rock Spring and owns the land west and adjacent to the ACEC including the structure known as "Bert Smith's place" and the upper spring.

According to county records dated 12/7/79, no patented claims or mineral surveys are located in the ACEC. There is, however, one claim located in the North ½ of Section 1 (BLM serial #36435) which is known as "Indian #1". This is a lode claim with a location date of 5/1/49; the latest assessment work was filed in 1979.

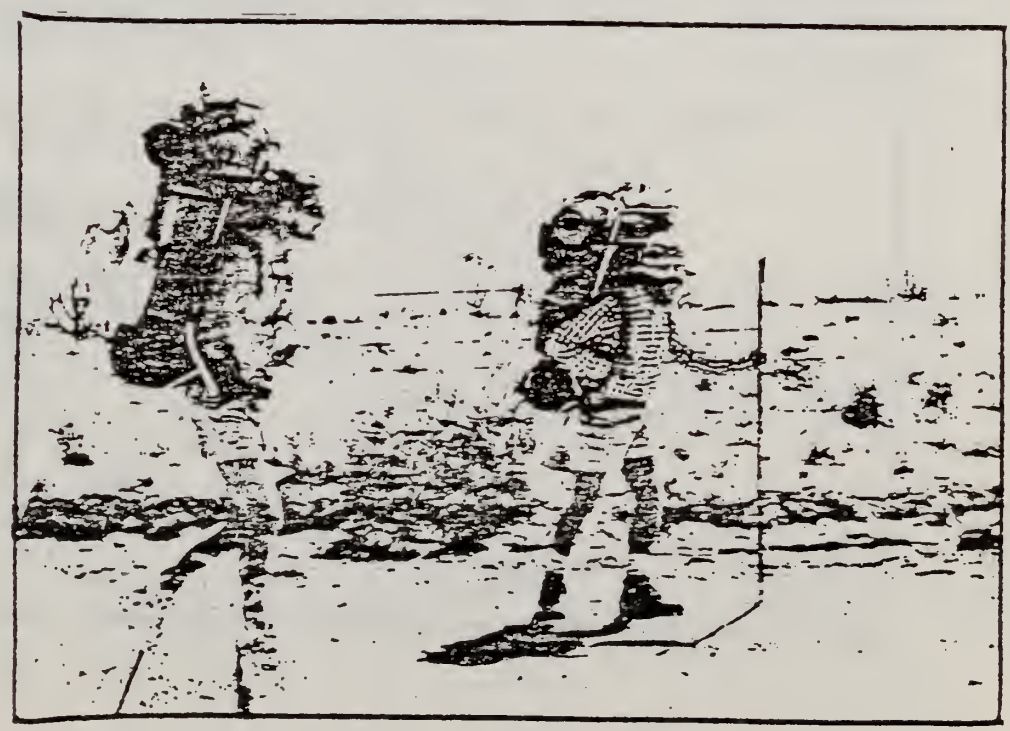
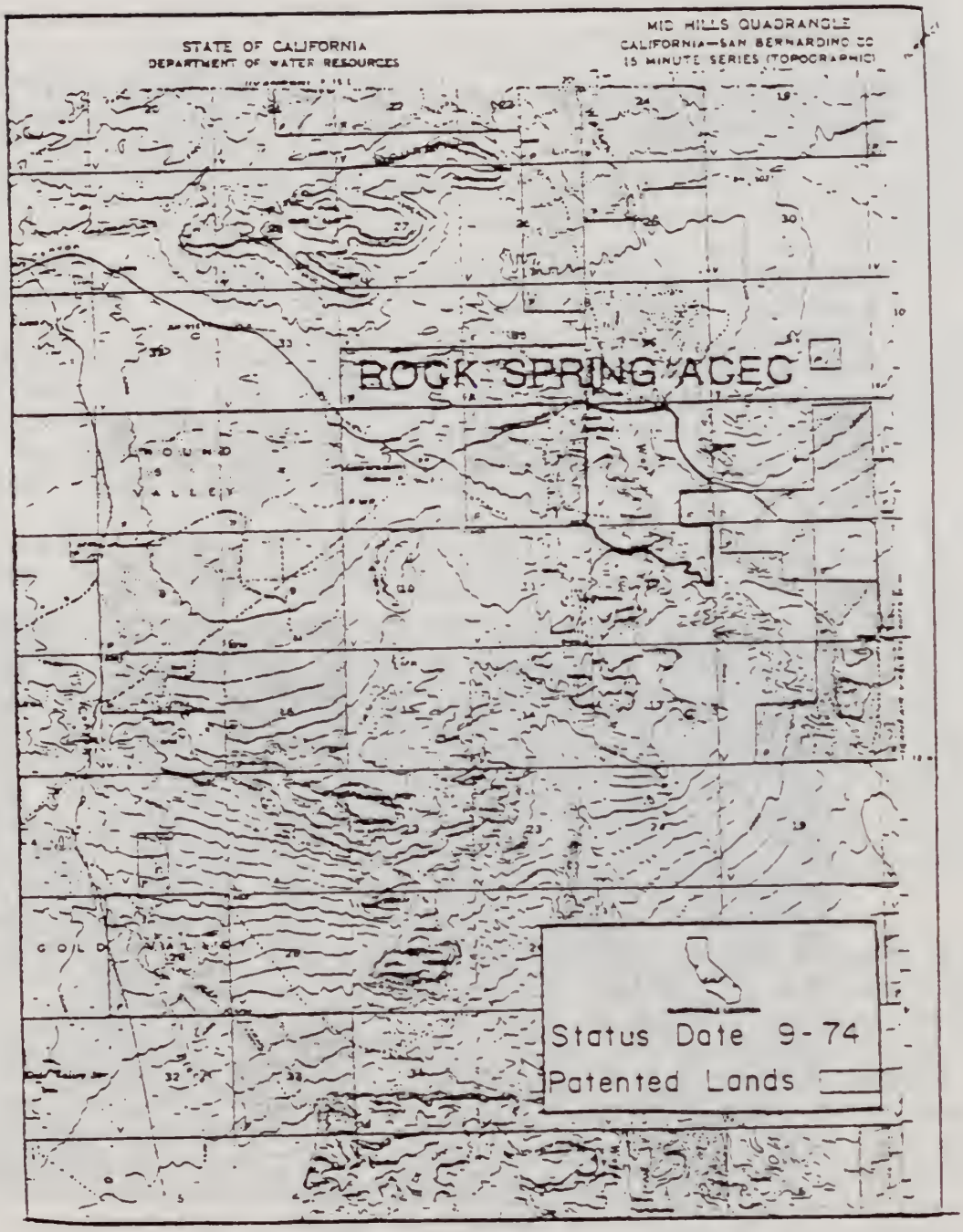


Figure 6: Jeff Erdos and Rick Potter nearing Rock Spring on their trans-state trek from the southeast corner to the northwest corner of California.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DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
MID HILLS QUADRANGLE
CALIFORNIA—SAN BERNARDINO CO
15 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
ROCK SPRING ACEC
Status Date 9-74
Patented Lands

D. Cultural History, Use and Significance

"The Rock Spring/Government Holes area is one of the most valuable and important historic sites still in the public domain in the East Mojave Planning Unit."
Casebier, 1976

Rock Spring is located in the heart of what was at one time Chemehuevi (Southern Paiute) Indian terriroty. These indians were of the Shoshonean linguistic stock which is part of he larger Uto-Aztekan linguistic family. The Chemehuevis followed regular migratory routes which were defined by folk songs. Each place name mentioned in the song indicated a landmark or place which was passed along the migratory route, or an important watering spot. Each band had their own song such as the "Mountain Sheep" song, the "Deer" song, the "Quail" song, and the "Day Owl" song. Rock Spring was an important site for the band of Chemehuevi Indians who's migration route was defined by the Salt Song (Laird, 1976).

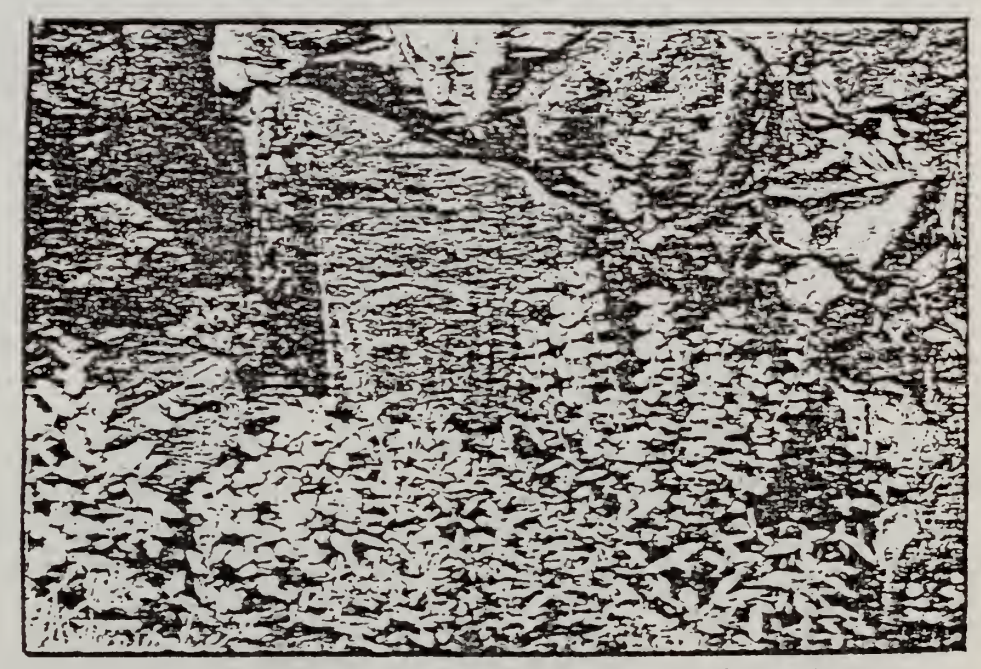


Figure 8: A petroglyph panel at Rock Spring.

The many petroglyphs located at Rock Spring may have been made by Chemeheuevi Indians to indicate the importance of the spring as a watering spot or to indicate ownership of the watering place (see Rector, 1976). According to Laird (1976) Rock Spring may have been the place called "Tooyagah" in Chemehuevi, which might be interpreted as meaning center or might equally well stand for toyompt, boulder (Laird, 1976). Laird (1976) suggested the following etymologies for the word, either "Center of the Pass" or "Boulder Pass" and thought that this place was Rock Spring since "water is situated about the enter of a pass and there are many granite boulders scattered about".

In addition to having the distinction of being the first white man to visit Rock Spring, Fr. Francisco Tomas Hermenegildo Garces is also the one who has passed along the most information on the ancient Mojave Indian Trail that connected the Mohave Villages on the Colorado River with the California coast. This trail was a trade route used by the Mohaves to exchange food products from their valley--and trade goods from farther east--for sea shells and other items with the Indians on the coast. One route of their famous trail (there was more than one way to go) passed Rock Spring. Garces, with only Mohaves as companions, was shown this trail and fully recognized and understood its importance (Casebier, 1981).

The geographical descriptions in Garces' journal were sketchy but most agree that he must have stopped at Rock Spring in May of 1776 (Casebier, 1981). This trek was followed by those of numerous American mountain--that of Jedediah Strong Smith in 1826 and 1827, and those of Ewing Young, Kit Carson, Peter Skene Ogden and others (Casebier, 1981).

Following the acquisition by the United States of much of what is now the southwestern part of America, parties of American explorers were searching for better routes to the Pacific coast. Those who were fortunate enough to be near the 35th Parallel of North Latitude would encounter the great Mohave Nation and the Indians would show them their ancient trail across the desert. After 1850, the route by way of Rock Spring was invariably used, as verified by explicit documentation (Casebier, 1981). On March 5, 1854, the surveying expedition assigned by the United States Congress to work on the 35th Parallel of North Latitude route, connecting Albuquerque, New Mexico, with Los Angeles, California and under the comman of army Lieutenant Amiel Weeks Whipple, arrived at Rock Spring. This is the moment at which Rock Spring received the name it retains today (Casebier, 1981).

"The next noteworthy visitor to Rock Spring was Edward Fitzgerald Beale and the famous camel caravans...The camel experiment, and Beal's wagon road survey, were supported by the War Department" which gave annual appropriations for Beale to continue working on the 35th Parallel Route and experimenting with camels. Beale, with these unusual animals, arrived at Rock Spring late in October 1857 headed west. They were to complete the connection between Albuquerque, New Mexico, and southern California by way of Fort Defiance and Zuni, New Mexico, and the Mojave Villages on the Colorado River. Throughout their operations,"Rock Spring was an important camping site and the arrival and departure of travelers and road workers and even camels at that place became commonplace"(Casebier, 1981).

"It was originally planned that Fort Mojave(on the Colorado River) be supplied by steamboat on the Colorado River. But at that time the steamers available were not capable of performing that task. Therefore there was no option except to haul supplies from Los Angeles to Fort Mojave over the Mojave Trail. It was at this point that the Mojave Trail became a wagon road and it served in that capacity as one of the most important of all the early transdesert trails for more than twenty years" (Casebier, 1981). This road was used a great deal by frontiersman, prospectors, mail wagons and the United States Army until 1883 as a connecting route between the commercial empire of the California Coast and Arizona territory. During the period between 1850 and 1883, Rock Spring served an important role as headquarters for the Rock Spring Mining District (important gold discoveries were made within 10 miles

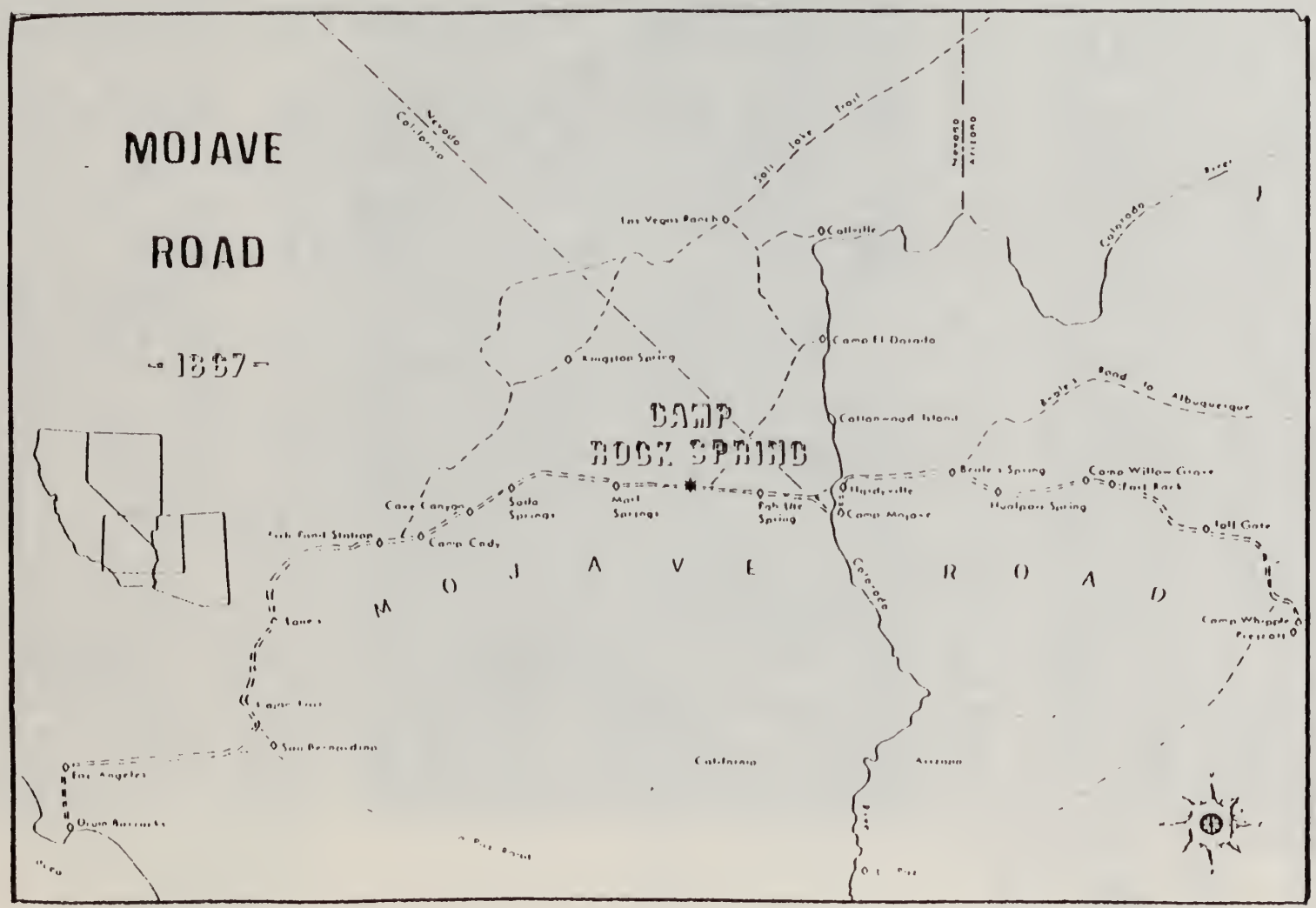


Figure 9: Relative location of Rock Spring on the Mojave Road. Reprinted with permission from Casebier (Norco: Mojave Road Pub. Co., 1973:4).

of the spring), settlement, and a post office (January through December, 1866).

"At about the same time that the mining activity in the Rock Springs Mining District was grinding to a halt, late 1866, the army moved in and established a post at Rock Spring. It was known as Camp Rock Spring, California. It was an official post in the sense that it maintained post records, had a commissioned officer in command, and submitted required returns and reports to the Adjutant General of the Army. It was the only official post on the Mojave Road along the 130 miles between Camp Cady on the west and Fort Mojave on the east"(Casebier, 1981).

Camp Rock Spring was established primarily to provide escort riders for the U. S. Mails, then being carried over the Mojave Road (Casebier, 1981). The post at Rock Spring performed its duty for nearly fifteen months from December 30, 1866 until January 2, 1868 (Casebier, 1981). "On May 21, 1868, Camp Rock Spring was abandoned by the army, because the mail had been switched to another road and also because the desert indians had either been killed, beaten into submission, or they moved to other areas where they would be safer" (Casebier, 1981).

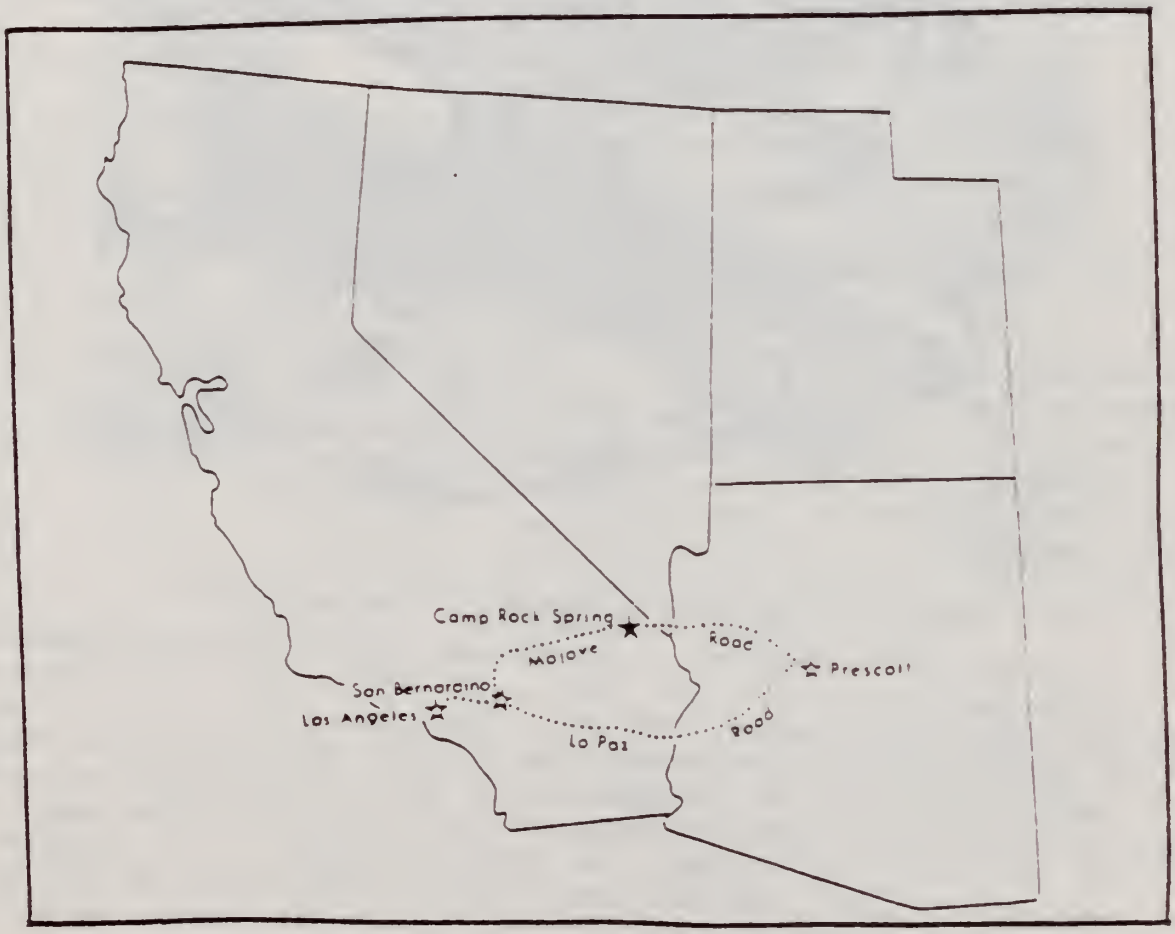


Figure 10: Reprinted with permission from Casebier. (Norco: Mojave Road Pub. Co., 1973:2).

The estimated number of Indians living in the area at that time was probably less than 100 and they were described as on the verge of starvation. These migrating people considered springs of high value and thus concentrated (or "gathered") near them. With army troops stationed at many of the important water sources in the East Mojave, the Southern Paiute Indians were cut back from a portion of the resources which they dominated previous to the intrusion of the white man.

With the construction of the Southern Pacific Railraod in 1882-83 (later purchased by the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad in 1884) and the paralleling wagon and auto route which was eventually called Route 66, traffic on the Mohave Road was moved south twenty to thirty miles. The military, and most Indians too, were gone from the East Mojave by this time. The only industry regularly pursued in this section of the desert was mining but Rock Spring did not play a major role in this later mining activity (Casebier, 1981).

Figure 11: Remnants of one of the men's quarters.

It appears that there was no significant cattle or livestock grazing in the East Mojave until the 1880's. By 1889, however, serious operations had commenced (Casebier, 1981). In 1894, Rock Spring gave its name to a cattle company that dominated the industry and controlled an immense region of the East Mojave Desert until 1931. This company was called the Rock Springs Land and Cattle Company" later to be come known as the OX Land and Cattle Company. The brand which the R.S.L.& C.Company used was the "88", thus old-timers refer to the company as the "88 Company". This brand is said to have been picked because the original outfit, with headquarters at Rock Spring commenced operations in 1888 (Casebier, 1981). Since that time, the spring has been used for livestock purposes. Presently, the OX Company which leases the Lanfair Valley Allotment from the Bureau of Land Management, controls the water rights at Rock Spring.

Beginning in about 1910, there was a series of wet years in the East Mojave which made the area suitable for agriculture by dry farming. The area was open to settlement by homesteaders who could get 160, 320, and later even 640 acres of land for a small filing fee and for living on the land a certain period and making prescribed improvements.

There were "nesters", as the homesteaders were frequently called, in all directions from Rock Spring shortly after 1910. Because homesteaders fenced their claims and because they needed water from the springs in the area including Rock Spring, a full scale conflict developed between them and the Rock Spring Land and Cattle Company by 1920 (Casebier, 1981). Throughout this period, Rock Spring was a place of major importance and contention to both sides as many were dependent upon its water for their existence. Homesteaders were threatened and intimidated by the cattle company however, promoting two homesteaders to dig wells at different times above Rock Spring but clearly tapping the same underground pool (Casebier, 1981). These were dug by Arnold W. Beaty (Beaty's Well) and Lewis Emde (Emde Well).

A school served the children of the homesteaders around Rock Spring; it was called the Pleasant View School. For the school year 1923-1924, the geographical center of the children shifted and the school was moved to Rock spring (Casebier, 1981). The location of the two school buildings was above th spring about a quarter of a mile. School commenced there for only one year until the number of children attending was too small to justify continuation (Casebier, 1981). The lumber was dismantled and moved.

Bert Smith filed a homestead claim on the hill just behind the site of Camp Rock Spring and north of the spring. The stone cabin which can still be seen there was erected by Smith around 1929. Smith was a mustard gas victim from World War I who came to the desert for his health in the 1920's expecting to live for just a short time. His land included part of Rock Spring Canyon but not the site of the army post which is still on public domain. Bert posed the greatest threat the cattle company had ever had to Rock Spring water (Casebier, 1981). "It seems likely they would never have let him succeed in his homestead application had the company been active when he moved in. But there was a lull in cattle operations in the late twenties when R.S.L.&C.C. went out of business and before OX was firmly established. By coincidence that is when Bert Smith came in and homesteaded. He made application and quicly acquired patent to the N 1/2 of Section 2 (later he acquired the S 1/2). Requirements for improvements and "proving up" were less stringent for veterans than for others and consequently Bert Smith's paperwork was accomplished very quickly" (Casebier, 1981).

There was considerable tension and conflict with OX and"in the end OX acquired Smith's land, but even that was through trickery. Smith refused to sell to the owners of the cattle company. So one of the owners had his daughter approach Smith and in about 1954 Smith sold the entire section to her. The purchaser quickly turned the property over to the OX and it remains as part of that ranch"(Casebier, 1981).

"The OX Cattle Company still exists on the East Mojave, although it has changed hands. Present owners, Ed and Nel Eldridge, acquired the ranch in 1956. Section 2, Bert Smith's old place, is amongst the deeded property of the ranch. The Eldridge's respect the memory of Bert Smith and his service to this country and his work on the East Mojave as much as anyone. Since owning the ranch they have frequently permitted local groups to hold social gatherings, in the old style 'potluck' fashion, at Bert Smith's cabin" (Casebier, 1981).

After Bert Smith left, a period of relative quiet returned to Rock Spring. OX Cattle Company has gone about their business watering cattle at the lower spring as cattle companies have been doing for nearly 100 years. Hunters and recreationalist frequently use the site. Hunters shoot wildlife and sometimes, perhaps, cattle, here. An old shot up television located at the site of Camp Rock Spring, indicates that the area is also used for practice shooting. Without interpretive signing at the site, some must look and wonder in ignorance about the vanishing remains of another day that they see scattered about them.

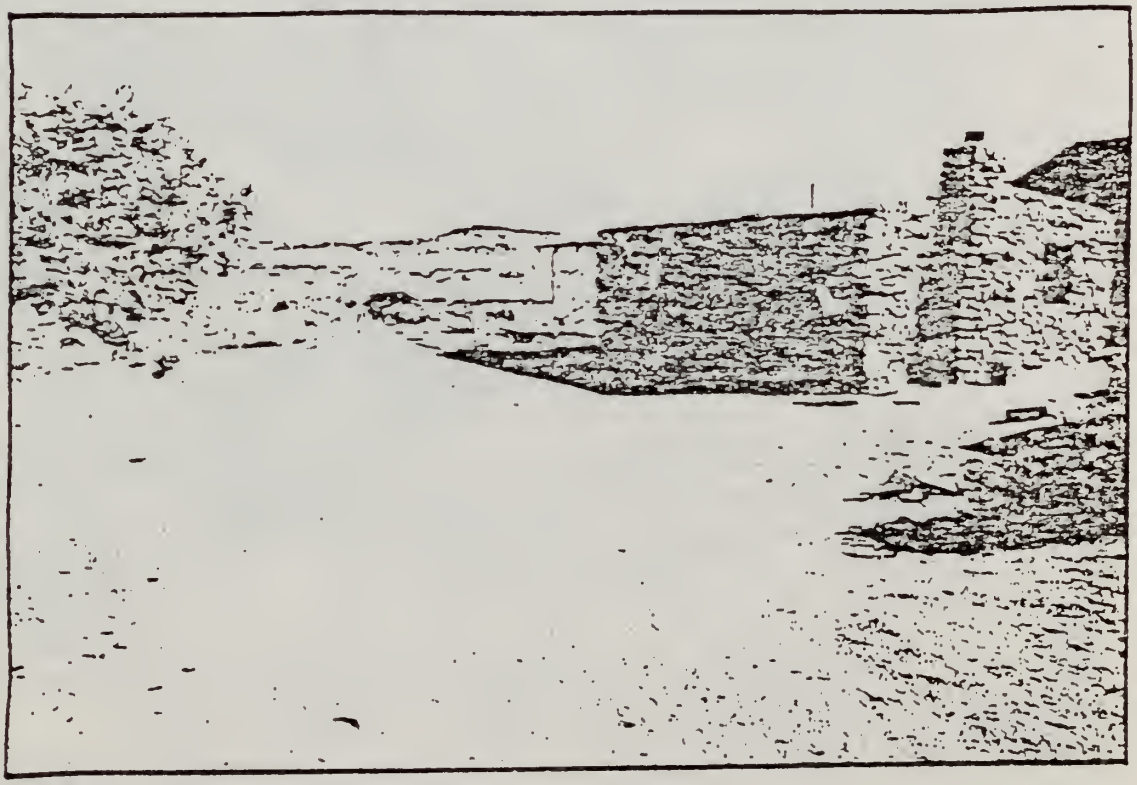


Figure 12: The house built by Bert G. Smith at Rock Spring in the 1930's. Reprinted with permission from Casebier (Norco: Mojave Road Pub. Co., 1975:87).

D. Extant Cultural Resources

"The Rock Spring/Government Holes region, situated as it is in one of the most beautiful corners of the planning unit, and steeped as both places are in fascinating history, has tremendous potential for future intensive development and interpretation." (Casebier, 1976)

Prehistoric habitation of the site is evidenced by a number of prehistoric artifacts located in a concentrated area. Upon a brief examination, a few fragments of stone tools and other remains formed during construction of prehistoric tools were found. Numerous reports of other prehistoric tools which have been discovered in the area have revealed that the area was at one time a rich source of artifacts, but

Figure 13: A portion of the rock breastwork at Rock Spring.

much has been exploited for personal collections. Three loci of petroglyphs with as many as 50 distinct elements are located at the site. No obvious prehistoric foot paths can be found having been obliterated by natural erosion and by mechanical, historic human or bovine traffic. Although there are no large structures remaining from the historic period,

remnants of many of the improvements made by the military can be found. The outline of the corral was clear in 1973, but this was washed away by a flash flood. The foundations of several of the shacks erected by the troops for the men's quarters are still visible along with the rock outline of the old mail company cabin. A "breastwork" of rock alignments bearing along the side of the hill behind the site of the post can still be seen; this was undoubtedly designed to fence in livestock (Casebier, 1973). Military graffitti from 1863 is also present. Trails (historic/prehistoric) can also be seen, one which appears to access the look-out point.

The ruins of two mining adits which were used by the military for storage purposes, were excavated by Casebier in June and July of 1969 (Casebier, 1973). Previous to the excavation, these were filled in and so were not visible. After being opened up, hundreds of items were found on the floors. These artifacts included square nails, bottles and other historic artifacts. These artifacts are housed at the San Bernardino County Museum.

A survey conducted by Richard Weaver, Cima Resource Area Archeologist, on March 8, 1978, revealed that Camp Rock Spring had deteriorated between that time and 1973 when Casebier (1973) published a map of the extant cultural resources there. Weaver noted that "while the map is essentially correct, some modifications are indicated (see Map II). These are:

1. The Corral structure noted at the east end of the camp is hardly indentifiable. This may be due to the flash floods occcuring on or before June, 1969, and vandal activity.

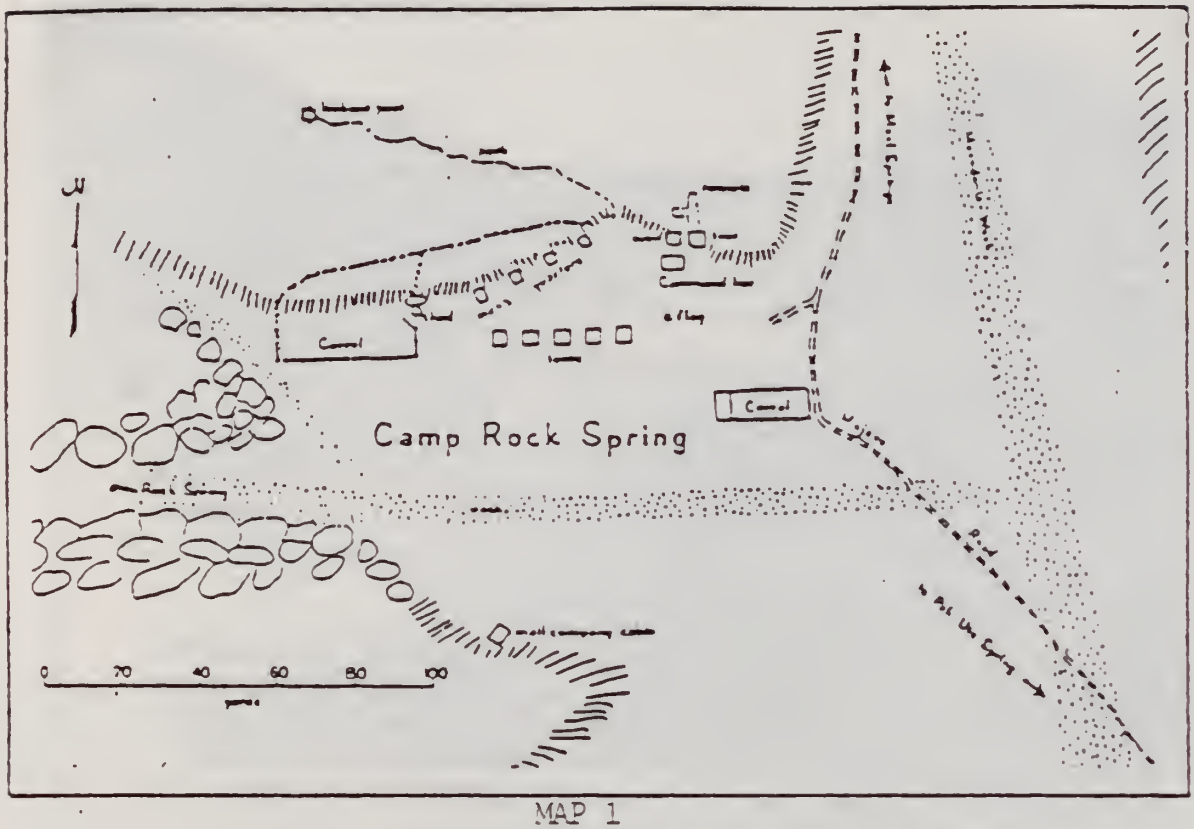
2. The southern portion of the western most corral structure (situated on the terrace) is no longer extant.

3. The "tents" are not locatable.

4. The indicated "flag" location is not identifiable.

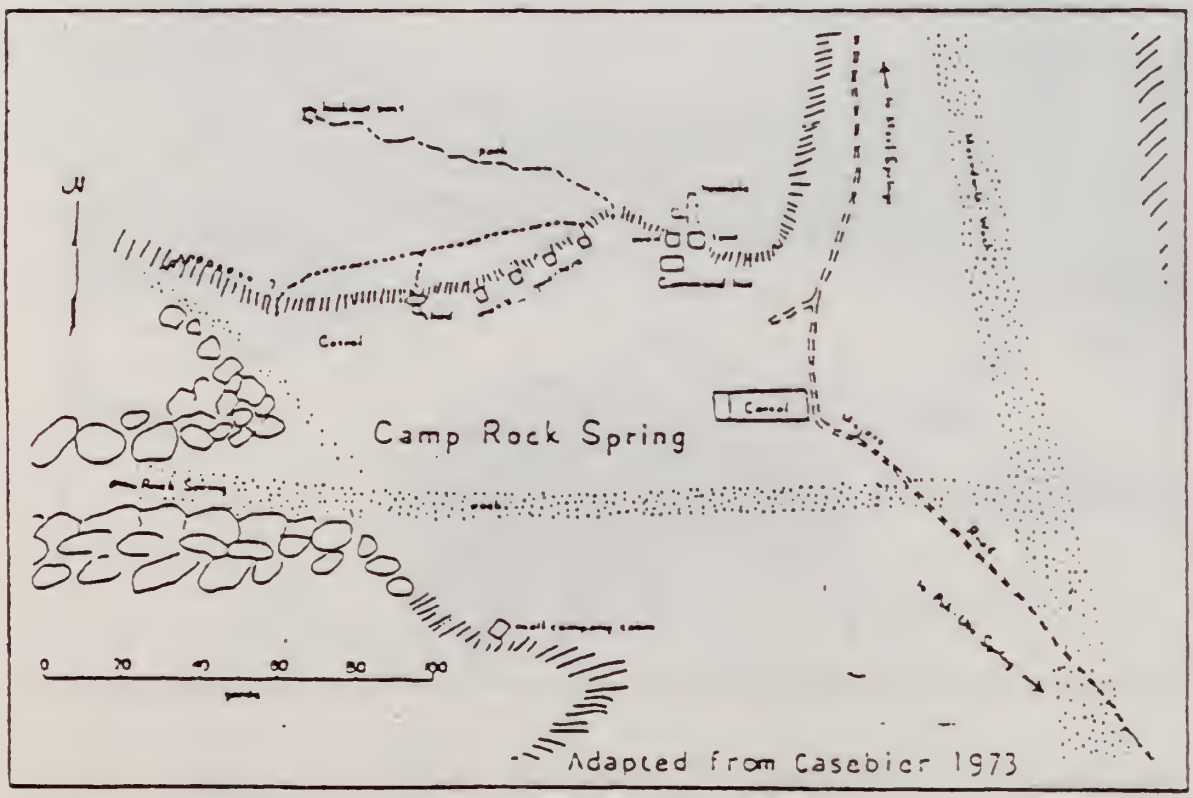
5. There appears to be an additional rock wall, possibly an extension of the western corral structure, located northwest of the location indicated by Casebier (1973:18). (See Map II.)"

In regard to this last observation, a rock wall to the south of the wash was also missed. Weaver also noted that "In all remaining instances, the indicated structures or their remains are extant although they have been subject to deterioration from a combination of exposure to natural forces, grazing activity, and vandals."



MAP 1

CASEBIER'S 1973 RECONSTRUCTION OF CAMP ROCK SPRING
Reprinted with permission from Casebier (Norco: Mojave Road Publishing Co., 1973)



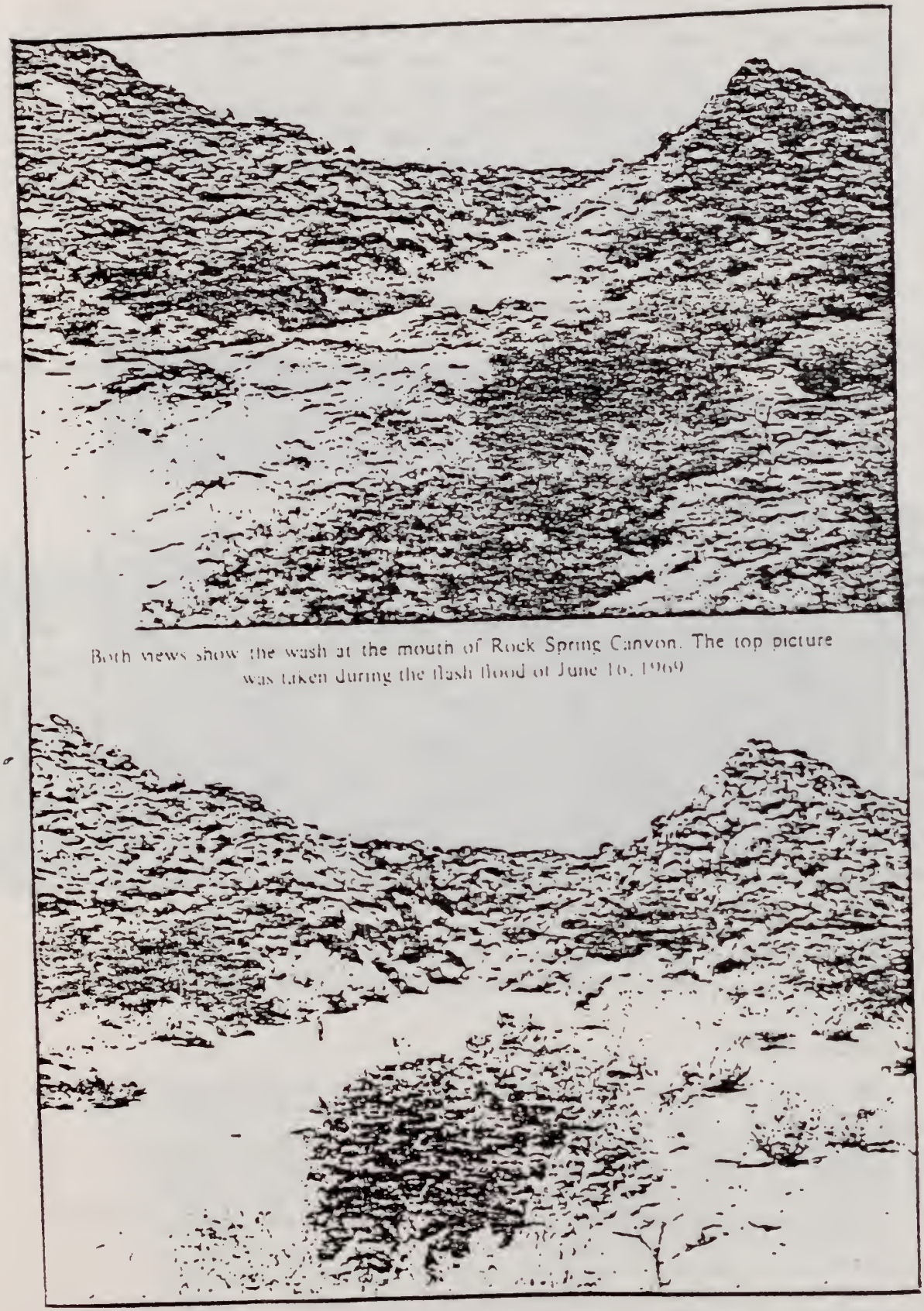
MAP II
IDENTIFIABLE REMAINS AT CAMP ROCK SPRING TODAY (3/8/78)

E. Hydrology:

The Rock Spring area has undergone a substantial amount of local faulting/jointing; this has undoubtedly effected a tapping of the water table to produce Rock Spring. The proximity of the spring within what appears to be a faulted canyon lends credence to the fault-control theory.

Watson Wash drains out of the Pinto Mountains and runs southward feeding Ford Dry Lake at its southernmost point; this wash passes the Camp Rock Spring site and is fed by the spring. Rainfall from the Woods Mountain Range, of which Table Mountain is a part, also empties into Watson Wash and the wash west of Rock Spring; this range supplies the water table which feeds Rock Spring.

Although the exact mean rainfall at Rock Spring is unknown, mean annual precipitation at five locations nearby is guaged; based on their precipitation trends and taking into account elevation differences between then and Rock Spring, it can be expected that Rock Spring receives somewhere between 5 and 10 inches of rain per year.



Both views show the wash at the mouth of Rock Spring Canyon. The top picture was taken during the flash flood of June 16, 1969

Figure 14 a and b: Reprinted with permission from Casebier (Norco: Mojave Road Publishing Co., 1975: 51).

Periodically, major flooding occurs in Rock Spring Wash. As shown in Figure 14a a flash flood swept through the wash on June 16, 1969 and washed away much of the alluvium bench upon which the major portion of the remianing Camp Rock Spring structures sit. After the flood, a steep loam bank (see figure 14c) replaced the once gentle slope down into the wash. Cattle and people walking on this bank is accelerating erosion. Another heavy rain could wash much of the loam bench away.

Figure 14 C

This view of the Camp Rock Spring bench (left) was taken looking eastward from the mouth of Rock Spring Canyon. Figures 14a and 14b were taken looking westward directly into the mouth of the canyon. The flash flood of September, 1977 was the cause of the formation of the bank shown above.

F. Scenic Values

Camp Rock Spring is in the heartland of the East Mojave National Scenic Area. Pinto Mountain and other remnants of lava flows contrast with the eroded granite boulders surrounding the spring. A dense covering of shrubs are set off by clusters of juniper. Developments are limited to historic rustic structures which enhance the scenic qualities for many visitors.

Under BLM's visual resource management guidelines, the area has been assigned a class II rating, which means that changes to the basic elements of line, form, color and texture caused by a management activity should not be evident in the characteristic landscape. The contrast may be seen, but must not attract attention. When necessary special stipulations will be designed to allow a project to meet these standards.

Figure 15: Pinto Mountain as seen from the look out point at Camp Rock Spring

G. Vegetation

Rock Spring is situated in the Midhills region of the eastern Mojave Desert. At 4800 feet above sea level, the Midhills constitute a montane isthmus connecting the even higher Providence and New York Mountain Ranges. Botanically, the entire area is reminiscent of upper Mojave and Great Basin deserts. Dominant perennial species include Great Basin sagebrush, juniper, Mormon Tea, fleshy-fruit yucca and pinyon pine at higher elevations. Rabbit brush, catclaw and mesquite dominate washes (such as Watson and Cedar Canyon washes) and canyons. Other species include cheesbush, thornbush, buckwheat, desert fir, snakeweed (matchweed), desert broom, range ratany, skeleton weed and cacti such as buckhorn, cholla, prickly pear, mound cactus, dollar cactus, hedgehog and beavertail.

Cima milk vetch, or locoweed (Astragalus cimae var. cimae) is known only from mountainous areas east of Cima, California (Jaegar, 1941), approximately 10 miles northwest of Rock Spring. This species has been observed in Fourth of July Canyon in the New York Mountains and in Cedar Canyon in the Midhills and could conceivably occur in the vicinity of Rock Spring. Cima locoweed is listed as rare and endangered by the California Native Plant Society (CNPS, 1980).

H. Wildlife

The Mid Hills region comprises a fairly rich and diverse habitat for wildlife. Bighorn sheep and mule deer both occur in the area as well as predators such as bobcat, coyote, badger, ringtail, foxes and probably mountain lion. Excellent nesting and foraging habitat for many species of raptors exists thorughout the Mid Hills area. Among the species are golden eagles, prairie falcons, American kestrels, Cooper's hawks, sharpshinned hawks and red-tailed hawks. During winter months, roughlegged and the very uncommon Swainson's hawk may be encountered in certain areas. Several reports of Harris' hawks have been made over the past six months in this general region. Rock Spring, as the name implies, is a perennial spring and comprises a good and reliable source of water for local and resident wildlife. Quail and chukar, especially during the past three years, have been abundant in the area. The spring (with its temporary, natural basins) along with the canyon in which it is situated, offers a good water source as well as cover for local gallinaceous birds and other wildlife.

V. Use Philosophy and Goals

Protection of sensitive resource values is the primary goal of this magagement plan. Protection of the resources will not replace recreational use of the ACEC; instead, it is hoped that an understanding of this area can be passed on to the desert visitor through Bureau of Land Management presence and interpretive aids, indicating to visitors that it is there to enjoy but can be easily destroyed.

Interpretive aids will be based upon the inventory taken as a part of the management plan. This inventory will also allow baseline monitoring of the site and allow management to determine if degradation of the site is taking place. Bureau presence will not only allow the opportunity to pass on interpretive information to the visitor but will allow for the controlled use of the site.

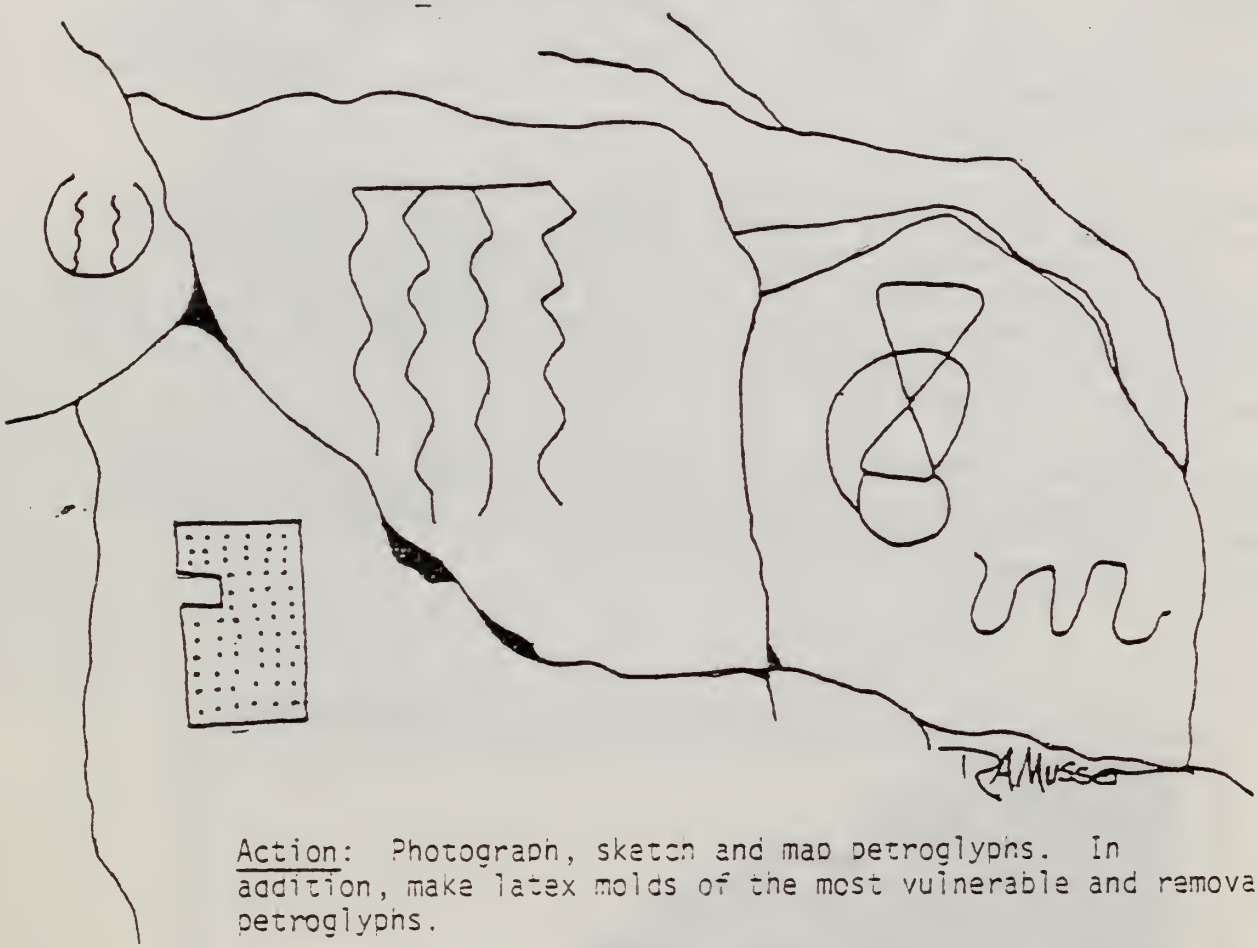
As use increases at the site due to increased public awareness of the Mojave Road and the points of interest along it, certain uses of the site will increasingly threaten the extant resources located at Rock Spring. Venicular use of the unstable bank, shooting near the spring and petroglyphs, camping near the water and mineral development at the historic and prehistoric site are considered to be uses which are incompatible with the management goals presented here.

Measures proposed in this plan are designed to ennance wildlife resources, cultural resources and recreational use, while at the same time, create a presence which will indicate to the visitor that the site is there to enjoy, not to destroy.

VI. Planned Actions

The following management actions will be implemented to protect the key resource values of Camp Rock Springs while providing for quality recreational use. (See the Rock Springs Activity Plan for locational data).

A. Goal: Complete photographic record and mapping of petroglyphs to provide baseline data on the character, condition, location, design design, and type of rock art present at Rock Spring for the purpose of monitoring the condition of the petroglyphs.



Action: Photograph, sketch and map petroglyphs. In addition, make latex molds of the most vulnerable and removable petroglyphs.

Discussion: Rangers may use the petroglyph location map to determine, while monitoring the site, whether petroglyphs have been removed or damaged. Sketches of the rock art and any previous damage to the glyphs will also be noted so as not to confuse them with new impacts. If petroglyphs are damaged or destroyed at least there will be a permanant record of what was there for future research purposes. Because the latex molds are three dimensional in nature, they can be utilized as circumstantial evidence in persuing a petroglyph theft case in court of law (stolen petroglyphs can matched with the latex mold).

Implementation: Recordation of the petroglyphs will be completed on a volunteer basis by Cal 4-Wheel Drive Club under the direction of the Needles Resource Area Archeologist. A specialist must be contracted to complete latex molds. See Table 1 for cost structure.

B. Goal: Provide additional protection for Camp Rock Spring archeological resources.

Action: 1) Nominate Camp Rock Spring to the National Register of Historic Places, 2) Collect surface artifacts and retain in a Camp Rock Spring Study Collection, 3) Barricade access route to bench/fort area, 4) Withdraw the sensitive areas of the ACEC from mineral entry.

Discussion: National Register designation will give Rock Spring additional recognition and protection as a site of national importance. The few remaining prehistoric artifacts are presently being trampled and washed away. Protection of these vulnerable surface artifacts can be achieved by implementing 2 and 3 above.

Presently, a road provides access to the bench upon which the fort structures stood. Some of the historical artifacts are being driven over by campers. Also vehicular traffic is weakening the loam bench and accelerating erosion. By blocking the road just before it reaches the fort/bench area, incremental damage to the historical remains can be retarded.

By withdrawing the outpost and other sensitive areas around the spring these areas and the improvements would be protected from mineral development. A low potential exists for minerals to be found in the immediate vicinity of the cultural remains or spring at Rock Spring thus, the mining potential of this area will not be dampened. (Materials processed at the stamp mill located at Bert Smith's place were brought in from south of the spring area, however processing ore at the spring is a possibility which could potentially damage the cultural resources there. This is what would be avoided by withdrawing Rock Spring from mineral entry.

Implementation: Complete necessary paperwork and inventory to complete documentation forms provided by the Keeper of the National Register. The Needles Resource Area Archeologist is scheduled to do this task in fiscal year 1981

Collection of artifacts should be coupled with the excavation of several test units in order to provide necessary information for the National Register documentation. This information will also provide management with the data needed to make decisions and testing shall be performed on contract to a qualified archeologist holding a valid antiquities permit. Artifacts collected will be maintained in a Rock Spring Study Collection and housed in an approved institution where it would be made available to public display.

Using post and cable, barricade the bench/fort access road immediately before it enters the sensitive area. (See Camp Rock Spring Activity Plan map for location.) See Goal C for a discussion of this action.

The Needles Resource Area Realty Specialist will be programmed to complete the necessary paperwork for withdrawing the ACEC from minimal entry.

C. Goal: Create safe and adequate parking area for vehicles. Control vehicular access in areas off limits to vehicles and camping.

Action: Construct a pole and cable fence around parking area in the vicinity between Watson Wash, the bottom of the hill on the west side of the wash, north of the outpost and south of Cedar Canyon Road (See activity plan map for location).

Designate parking area for "Day Use Only" and sign the wash area "Four-Wheel Drive Vehicles Only".

Discussion: The bench upon which the outpost is located contains sensitive cultural remains which could be damaged by vehicles parking in that area. Further, the bench is unstable due to flooding and natural erosion in the area and is unsafe for vehicluar use. Thus, the need for a post and cable barrier to bar vehicles from this area. It is not a long walk from the parking area to the ruins and should not be a burden for anybody.

The parking area shall be large enough so that vehicles can maneuver to turn around without going up the side of the hill, down into the wash, or into the outpost area. The parking area will be located closer to Cedar Canyon Road then planned in the draft ACEC plan.

During the public comment period there was considerable discussion by the public devoted to the location of the designated parking area. Some advocated the designation of a parking area in a location other than that one described in the draft ACEC plan which they felt was inadequate and would generate undue damage to the bench at that point. Suggestions included relocation of the parking area to a point west of the Bert Smith entrance, parking at Bert Smith's place, or parking closer to the entrance along Cedar Canyon Road. This last option is the one which is recommended here since the other two would require a cooperative agreement with the land owner.

Implementation: The associated Blazers of California have indicated that they are interested in implementing actions proposed in this plan. A post and cable barrier could be erected in one weekend by this group. Survey and precise measurements are still needed but approximately 1/4 mile of cable will be needed along with 50 posts or railroad ties.

Camping facilities are available nearby at Mid Hills and Hole-in-the-Wall. Creating such facilities at Rock Spring would be an unnecessary expense.

D. Goal: Increase Bureau presence to decrease chances of vandalism, theft and unlawful shooting and to control vehicluar access in areas off limits to vehicles and camping.

Action: Increase Ranger and other Bureau personnel visits. Enforce posted rules. Inform visitors through personal contacts about the resource values at Camp Rock Spring and how they can help preserve and protect them.

Discussion: Increased contact with visitors will reduce vandalism, theft and destruction while increasing the chance of visitor acceptance of regulations.

Implementation: At least one visit per week by Bureau personnel should be scheduled. Interpretive talks shall also be developed and scheduled and will accompany the interpretive sign board and brochure. This will require the preparation of a program by the Needles Resource Area Outdoor Recreation Planner/Interpretor. The ACEC is close enough to the BLM Fire Station at Hole-in-the-Wall, to have fire crew help out with the patrol.

E. Goal: Increase visitor awareness of the importance and significance of resources located at Rock Spring.

Action: Design a simple interpretive brochure to be distributed at the informational sign board. This brochure will include maps of the ACEC and will be keyed to a self guided walk, marked with small numbered wooden posts.

Discussion: At the present time there is no real information available to the visitor at the site giving a history or background of the area or on the Mojave Road itself. A monument erected by E. Clampus Vitus Club at the site commemorates the military era but does not really give the uninformed visitor an overview of the area's significance.

It has become obvious that many people do not understand either the scientific or historical importance of the resources at the site and have scarred and mutilated the site through vandalism, destruction and theft. By educating the public, it is hoped that a greater appreciation for these resources can be instilled. Concommitantly, it is hoped that the public will learn the value of preserving the resources for future generations to enjoy.

On the other hand, extensive development of interpretive structures and signs are seen as incompatible with the preservation of the primitive nature of the site. During a Desert Awareness event held at Camp Rock Spring, those in attendance (approximately 25) were asked to comment on some of our tentative proposals. They stressed that we should maintain the sites' primitive appearance, for example by using non-obtrusive signs located close to the ground. Above all, they did not want an overdeveloped "park-like site." It was felt that by using small non-obtrusive signs with numbers keyed into an interpretive brochure and map, the desired goal could be achieved. It should also be noted that although posting of the entrance to Camp Rock Spring at Cedar Canyon Road was considered, this idea was rejected in the formulation stages; this action would attract undue attention to the site and increase visitor use and site degradation.

An informational sign board shall be constructed and erected in the parking area. The following specifications are suggested. The board shall include a cork board backing so that informational signs may be tacked to the sign. It will also include built-in pockets for the interpretive brochures and other Bureau of Land Management publications. A box may be provided for minimal fees for the brochures. This board shall also provide other information to the desert visitor including a locational map indicating the nearest BLM campgrounds and fire station and the hours when the fire station is open. Location and hours of the State Park Ranger Quarters at Providence Mountains State Recreation Area may also be provided here.

The purpose of the brochure is threefold:

1) to identify or locate features of historical and natural interest.

2) to give the visitor a feeling for what it was like here 100 years ago

3) to instill an appreciation for the place that will lead to improved visitor behavior and less vandalism unintentional or otherwise.

Visitor use will be directed in two ways: maps, photographs and descriptions can guide the visitor from the parking area to the various sites, requiring some active involvement in discovering what the areas attractions are; and by constructing small, unobtrusive stakes with numbers keyed to sections of the brochure.

Proposed layout:

Cover: a map of the Mojave Trail from the Colorado River to either Camp Cady or Afton Canyon. There might also be some graphic design bordering the map. The words "Camp Rock Spring" would be much larger than the other sites, titles, and would serve as the brochure's Title.

Panel 2 - Mojave Road: A brief history of the road, where it went, and why. A map of the road in the immediate vicinity of Camp Rock Spring would be included.

Panels 3 and 4 - Camp Rock Spring: Part of this section would be a brief description of its history. The focus, though, would be extracts from journals to give the visitor a feeling for how a traveler in the 1860's viewed the region. A map would show where the various historic structures are or were.

Panel 5 - Indians: Upon completion of the Samarokwai (see pages 35 & 36 for explanation), we will focus in on it: until that time, focus would be on the petroglyphs need for protecting them, and the relationship between early Europeans and the Indian Tribes of the region.

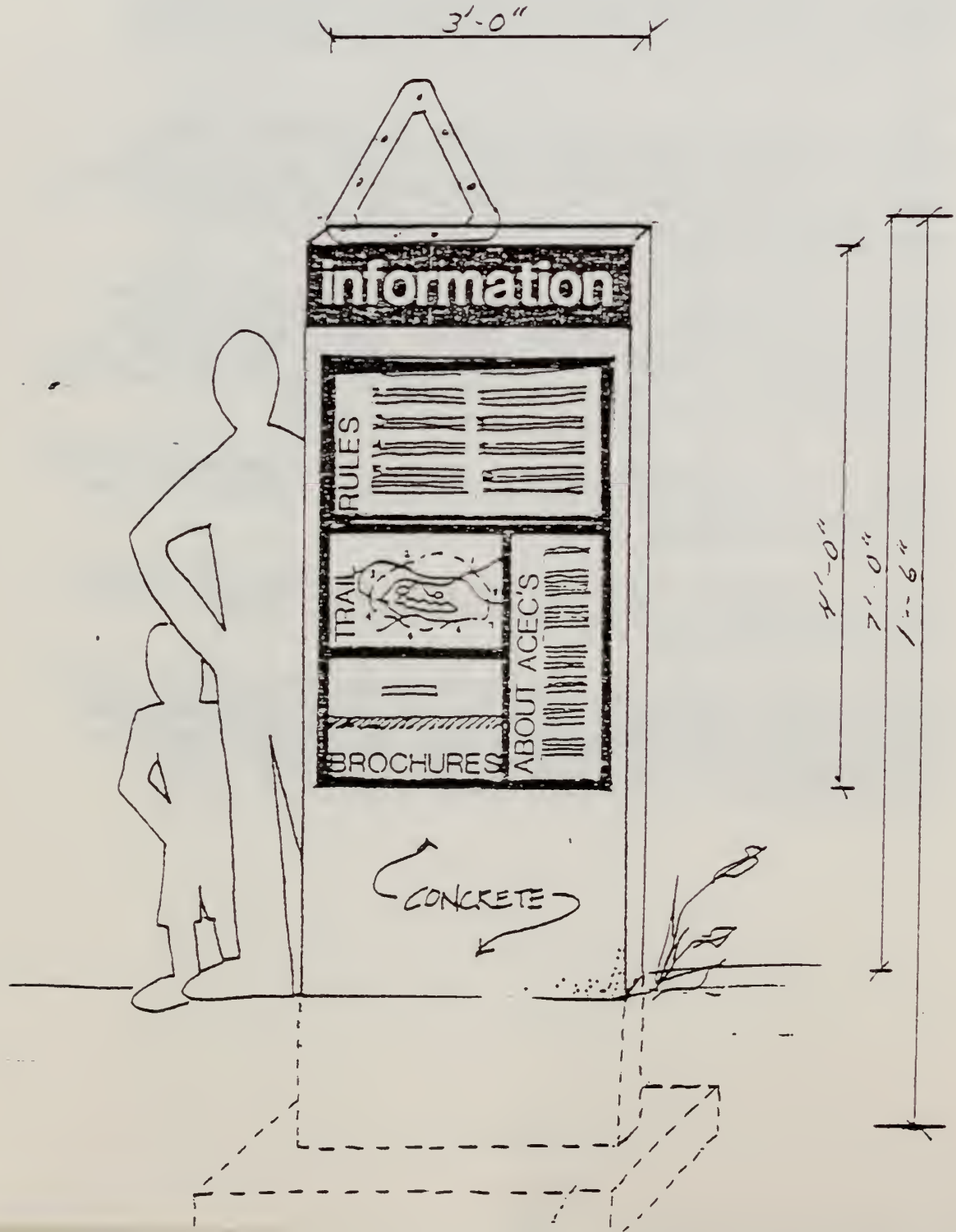
Panel 6 - Settlement: Rock Spring Land & Cattle Co. and homesteading will serve to describe changes and conflicts in the region during the Homesteading period; mention will be made of mining activities. Mention will be made of the private ownership of Smiths house and the conflicts with OX Ranch.

Panel 7 - The resources: Plants, animal life dependent on water. Description of the spring and why it is here. Mention of the volcanics surrounding the area.

Panel 8 - Standard blurbs on Interior, BLM, CDCA, and possibly East Mojave NSA, as well as National Historic Preservation Act and site designation.

The brochure may also be a pictorial guide to Rock Spring which would tie key locations to historical photos. The historical photos would give the visitor an idea of what Rock Spring was like "before."

Figure 17: A proposed design for an informational sign board (adapted from Corn Spring ACEC Activity Plan, USDI, BLM, 1981).



Interpretive Trail Marker: Stops along the interprtieve trail will be keyed to numbered wooden posts at each point of interest. Each post shall be made of a soft wood which weathers well outdoors, such as redwood. The post shall be either a 4 X 4 (3.5" X 3.5") or at least four inches in diameter, which ever is more economical or more convenient to acquire. The posts shall be 4' 6" in length, and shall be planted a minimum of two feet underground with a "deadman" to anchor it. The posts shall be beveled at 30 degree angles from horizontal. Consecutive numbers shall be routed into the beveled surface of the posts. The posts shall be left with natural grain showing and shall be painted with shellac. The routed numbers shall be painted white. These posts shall be placed at strategic interpretive locations as suggested on the Camp Rock Spring Activity Plan Map (Figure 18). These markers will be useful in the interpretation of both history and botany.

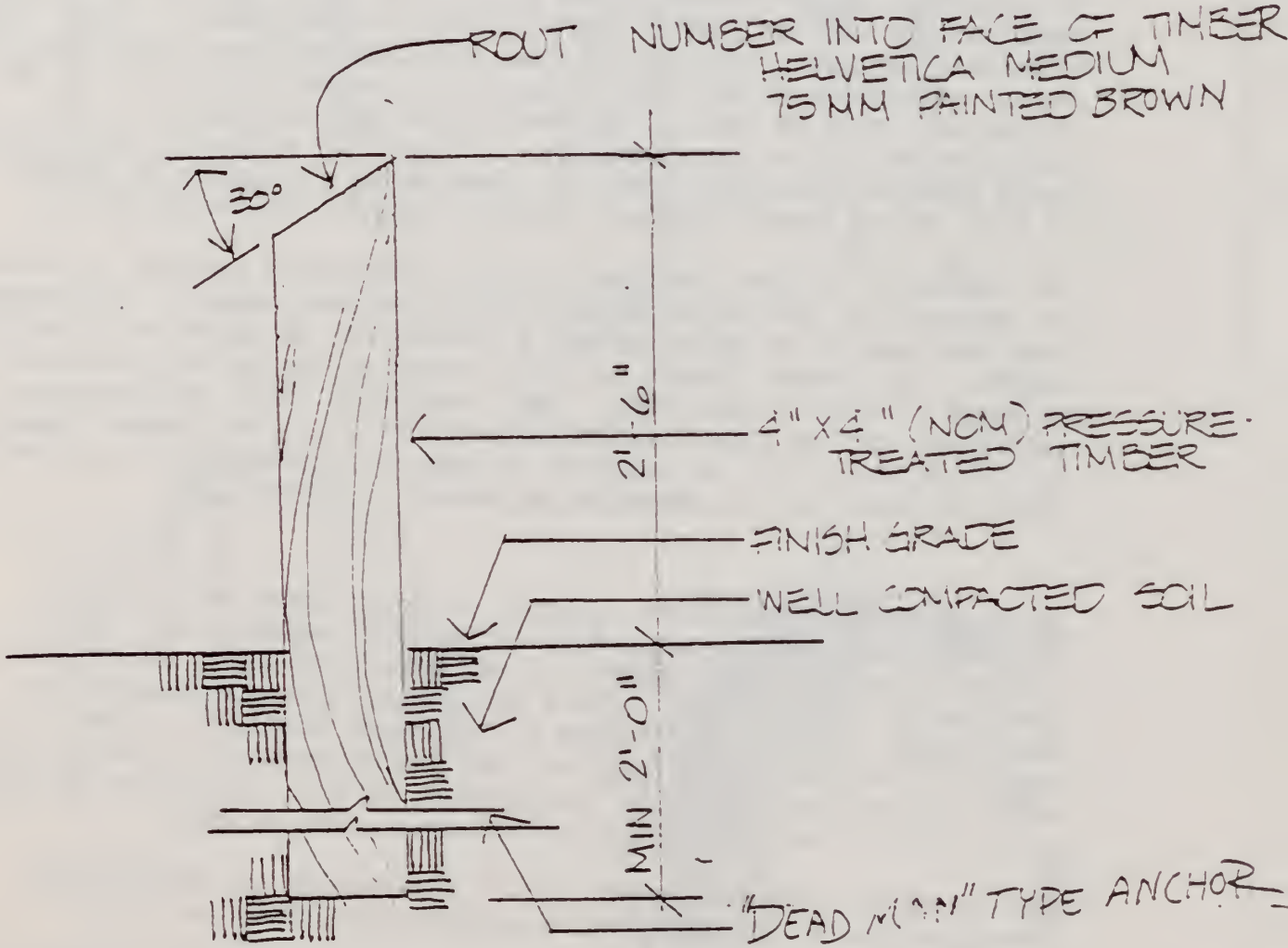


Figure 18 INTERPRETIVE TRAIL MARKER

As part of the interpretive program, a Chemehuevi house structure is proposed to be constructed in the area as indicated on the Activity Plan Map (figure 19). According to Laird (1976), the Chemehuevi built four types of houses or "kani": a flat house or ramada (takagani or havagani) for shade, a temporary brush hut (tcuupikyani) which was constructed with poles in a "wigwam" fashion and thatched with brush, the tivikyani or eathern house, and the samarok^{wa}i. The latter house was built to provide more protection, room and permanency than the temporary brush huts and is the type of kani proposed for construction at Rock Spring. The samarok^{wa}i or samarok^{wa}ikyani is built with willow saplings which are driven into the earth in a circle; the opposite saplings are then twisted together at the top. Cross saplings are then tied horizontally around the structure for added support; the structure is then thatched with brush, preferably arrowweed or sage. A diagram of the proposed structure is shown in Figure . Chemehuevi Indians and the Needles Boy Scout Troop have already volunteered to help complete this project. A permaloid plaque shall be posted near the structure forinterpretive purposes.

An important phase of Rock Spring history is the conflict between the Rock Springs Land and Cattle Company and the homesteaders. The homestead that Bert Smith built along with the gold ore processing site on the same property are some of the most interesting features at Rock Spring and could be used as an area to discuss the conflict on an interpretive sign or in a brochure. Restoration of the 88 water trough would also be an integral part of interpreting this phase of history at Rock Spring (see G. Enhance the environmental for wildlife).

For inclusion of these features in the interpretive program, it will be necessary to make an arrangement with the land owners. This arrangement can possibly be made through a cooperative agreement with the land owners. The present tenant has been consulted and is not interested in exchange or sale at this time. Upon completion of the Environmental Assessment for the Camp Rock Spring Activity Plan, the proper requests and transmittals will be prepared in advance of forwarding the Resource Area's request for a cooperative agreement.

Implementation: Associated Blazers (a 4-wheel Drive Organization) volunteered in 8-81 to adopt Rock Spring ACEC, meaning they would like to volunteer their efforts to implement this plan. Adoption of the site by the group may relieve the Brueau of Land Management of much of the cost and time needed to implement this plan. Some possibilities include donation of time and materials to construct and erect the brochure board and interpretive posts. Blazers may be able to provide for the publication of the guide book as well.

The Chemehuevi Indian Reservation and the Needles Boy Scout Troop have volunteered to construct the interpretive Samarokwai.

The Bureau of Land Management will work close by with all of these groups in implementing these projects.

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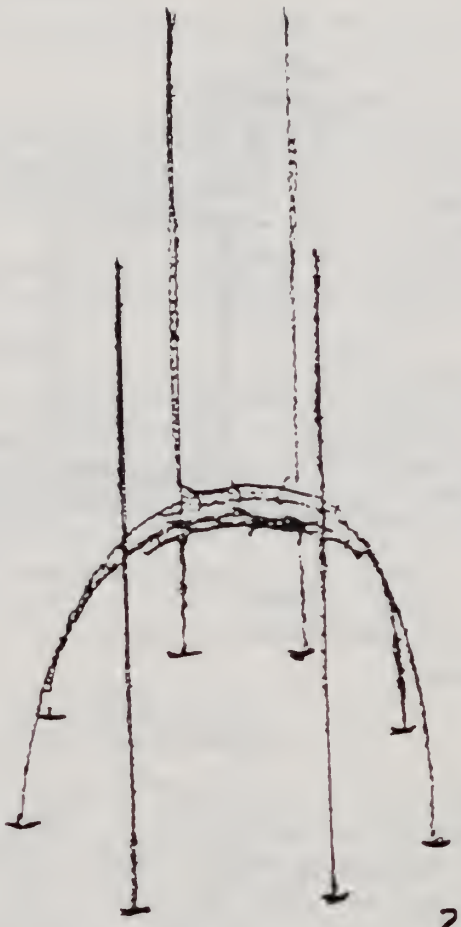

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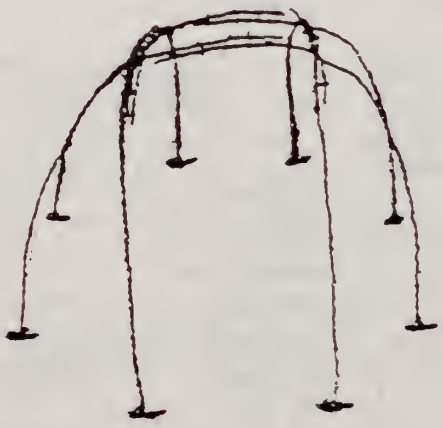

3.

4.

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SAMAROKwat

RAMBLICOT

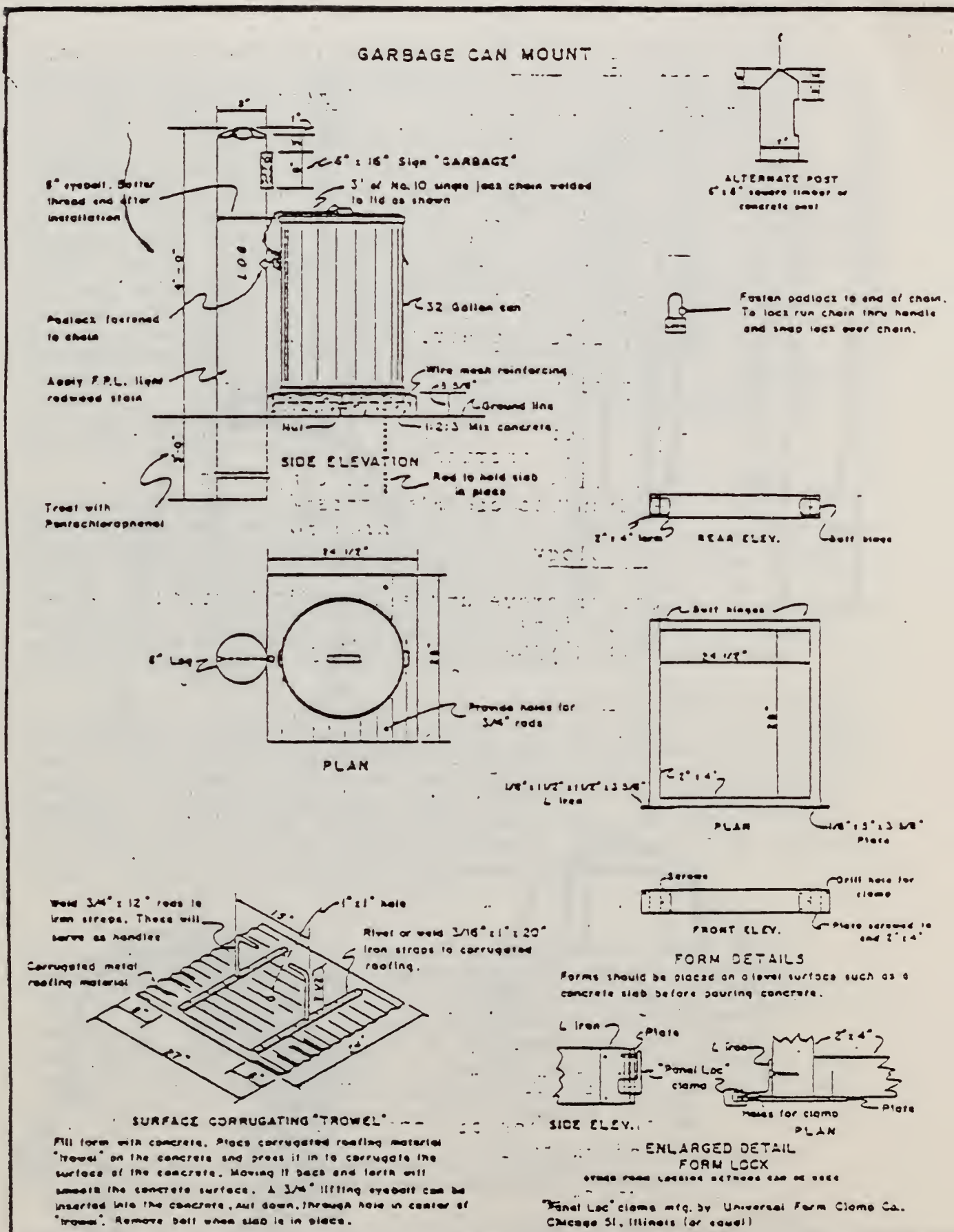

GARBAGE CAN MOUNT
ALTERNATE POST
6" x 6" square timber or concrete post
6" x 16" Sign "GARBAGE"
3' of No. 10 single jack chain welded to lid as shown
8" eyebolt. Bolter thread end after installation
Padlock fastened to chain
Apply P.P.L. light redwood stain
32 Gallon can
Wire mesh reinforcing
Ground line
Nut
1:2:3 Mix concrete.
SIDE ELEVATION
Rod to hold slab in place
Treat with Pentachlorophenol
Fasten padlock to end of chain. To lock run chain thru handle and snap lock over chain.
2" x 4" bars
REAR ELEV.
Bolt Slugs
24 1/2"
6" Log
Provide holes for 3/16" rods
PLAN
Bolt Slugs
24 1/2"
2" x 4"
L Iron
PLAN
Plate
Weld 3/16" x 12" rods to iron straps. These will serve as handles
1" x 1" hole
Rivet or weld 3/16" x 1" x 20" iron straps to corrugated roofing.
Corrugated metal roofing material
SURFACE CORRUGATING "TROWEL"
Fill form with concrete. Place corrugated roofing material "trowel" on the concrete and press it in to corrugate the surface of the concrete. Moving it back and forth will smooth the concrete surface. A 3/16" lifting eyebolt can be inserted into the concrete, nut down, through hole in center of "trowel". Remove bolt when slab is in place.
Screws
Drill hole for clamp
FRONT ELEV.
Plate screwed to end 2" x 4"
FORM DETAILS
Forms should be placed on a level surface such as a concrete slab before pouring concrete.
L Iron
Plate
"Panel Loc" clamp
SIDE ELEV.
L Iron
2" x 4"
Holes for clamp
Plate
PLAN
ENLARGED DETAIL
FORM LOCK
"Panel Loc" clamp mfg. by Universal Form Clamp Co. Chicago 51, Illinois (or equal)

Figure 20

E. Goal: Provide protection for the interpretive improvements at Rock Spring.

Action: Protection of interpretive improvements summarized in this activity plan shall be necessary and can be provided with a perpetual easement granted to the Bureau of Land Management.

Discussion: With a perpetual easement, the Bureau of Land Management will be able to assert a protective right and enhance management capabilities of the ACEC.

Implementation: Upon completion of the Environmental Assessment for the Camp Rock Spring Activity Plan, the Proper requests and transmittals will be prepared by the Needles Resource Area Realty Specialist in advance of forwarding the Resource Area's request for right-of-way. In the meantime, land status records shall be checked for conflicts with the proposed recommendation.

F. Goal: Reduce litter and trash which accumulates at Camp Rock Spring as a result of visitor use.

Action: Install two trash receptacles in parking area.

Discussion: It is expected that once an interpretive program is implemented at Rock Spring, people will picnic. Rock Spring is used as a camping area at the present time and trash has accumulated there. It is expected that people will enjoy visiting Rock Spring even more with the proposed interpretive program, thus the need for trash receptacles.

Comments during the public review period of this plan indicated a concern that receptacles invited litter and feel that a "You haul it in, You haul it out" sign will produce better results.

Implementation: Two trash receptacles will be purchased and installed in the parking area. These receptacles will be installed according to the specifications outlined in Figure 20. Maintenance on an "as needed" basis will be handled by Bureau of Land Management personnel.

G. Goal: Enhance the environment for wildlife.

Action: 1) Repair and modify existing concrete catchment basins in Rock Spring Canyon, 2) restore the 38 water trough, 3) designate the day use/parking area as a safety zone, 4) recommend to the Department of Fish and Game that the Spring area be closed to hunting, 5) pending indication of need during the baseline monitoring of Rock Spring, develop a pipeline from the spring ponds to an area south of the spring where wildlife can water without being frightened by visitors.

Discussion: Although this is a cultural ACEC Management Plan, it is also a multiple use plan and a number of natural and man-made catchment basins are located in the Rock Spring wash; these, however, have silted up and are not performing at capacity. The natural granite base and boulders in the wash conveniently allow simple adjustments to be made to create natural basins. Restoration of the 38 water trough would also provide additional water.

By designating the day use/parking area as a safety zone and by listing the spring with the Department of Fish and Game in essence, the ACEC area will be closed to hunting and shooting within 500 feet of the designated area. It is felt that this action will provide protection for both wildlife watering at the spring and for the petroglyphs which could accidently or purposefully be shot at. During the public comment period, several individuals expressed that the no hunting zone should be a two mile radius from the spring, however this suggestion is not legally feasible.

Piping the water away from the spring will provide wildlife and cattle an additional watering place which is not visible from the high use visitor area. At the present time, the average number of visitors at a given point of time is unknown. It is hoped that the monitoring program will help to determine visitor usage of the site. If the problem with visitors frightening wildlife and livestock is significant, then measures can be taken to implement this action.

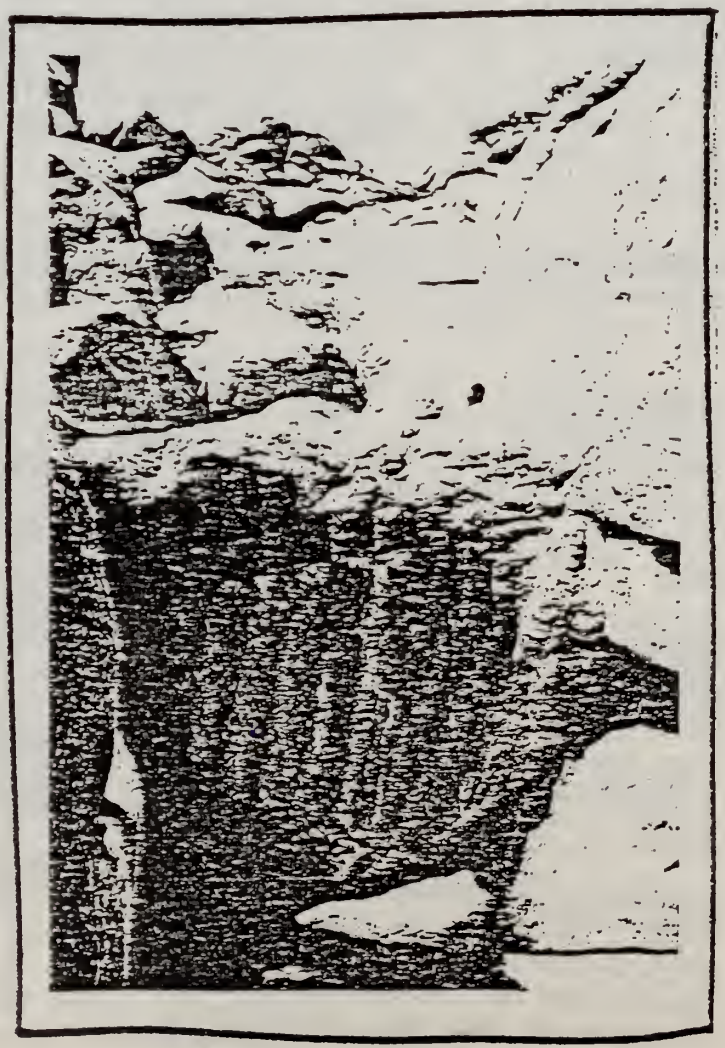


Figure 21:
One of the cement catchment basins in Rock Spring Canyon. This one was formed with corrogated tin.

Implementation: More concrete and naturally occuring rock will be added to the catchment basin to thicken and increase the height of the walls; hence, volume of the catchment basin will be increased. The silt in the basins will be manually dug out periodically as needed. Rock Spring and Rock Spring wash will be listed with the Department of Fish and Game to close to hunting within 500 feet of the water. Standard Bureau of Land Management signs will be posted on the brochure board designating this the area as a safety zone, and to indicate that no camping is allowed within 500 feet of the water.

Depending upon the level of visitor use of Camo Rock Spring, it may be necessary to pipe water away from the spring. This activity will be preceded by a low intensity environmental assessment report which will assess the effects of this action. An agreement must also be arranged with the holder of the Rock Spring water rights.

H. Goal: Ascertain resource improvement or decline, effectiveness of management of the area, and current condition of resources at Rock Spring.

Action: Institute a monitoring plan beginning in June, 1981, and report resource conditions and trends in an annual report.

Discussion: Although the effects of the proposed actions in this plan are designed to have positive impacts upon the resource values at Rock Spring, activities and changes must be monitored to determine if this goal is actually being achieved. Ineffective actions or actions which appear to be having a negative effect upon the resource values should be eliminated or modified. If additional actions are deemed necessary, an amendment to this plan and a low level environment assessment report may be required. Certain actions proposed in this plan are contingent upon justification of need as indicated by a monitoring plan. These actions include construction of a flood control system in Rock Spring Wash, and 2) piping water from the spring to an area which is visually protected from visitors. (These actions are discussed in "VI-I").

Monitoring of resource values can be achieved only after a record has been completed of extant resources present at the ACEC and their locations. Although, in general, locations of major features are known, these features have not been adequately photographed or accurately mapped

Implementation: Prior to monitoring the site an inventory of extant resource shall be made and a record shall be compiled of resource location and status. This record will include but not be limited to the following:

1) Photographs and sketches of petroglyphs keyed to an accurate locational map.
2) Photographs of historic and prehistoric artifacts and features (other than petroglyphs) keyed to an accurate locazional map.
3) Accurate measurement and mapping of the loam bench subject to flood erosion (see VI-I for detail).

As defined in the monitoring plan (Section FII), resources will be inspected and evaluated periodically and a report will be written yearly which will summarize the findings. This report will be submitted in June to the CDD Office ACEC Coordinator for review. See Section VII for a detailed narrative of the monitoring plan and reporting procedures.

I. Goal: Provide for the stabilization of the bench upon which Camp Rock Spring is located. To protect bench from further deterioration and protect bench from flash floods in the wash.

Action: Monitor bank erosion and if deemed necessary construct a retainment wall along the bank. End traffic up sides of bank which results in increased erosion rate.

Discussion: As described in the hydrology section of this report, major flooding does occur in Rock Spring Wash periodically threatening the stability of the bench upon which sites the major portion of the historical remnants of Camp Rock Spring (refer to V-E, "Hydrology" for a detailed discussion of this problem). Further, traffic on the bank accelerates the deterioration of the bank and bench.

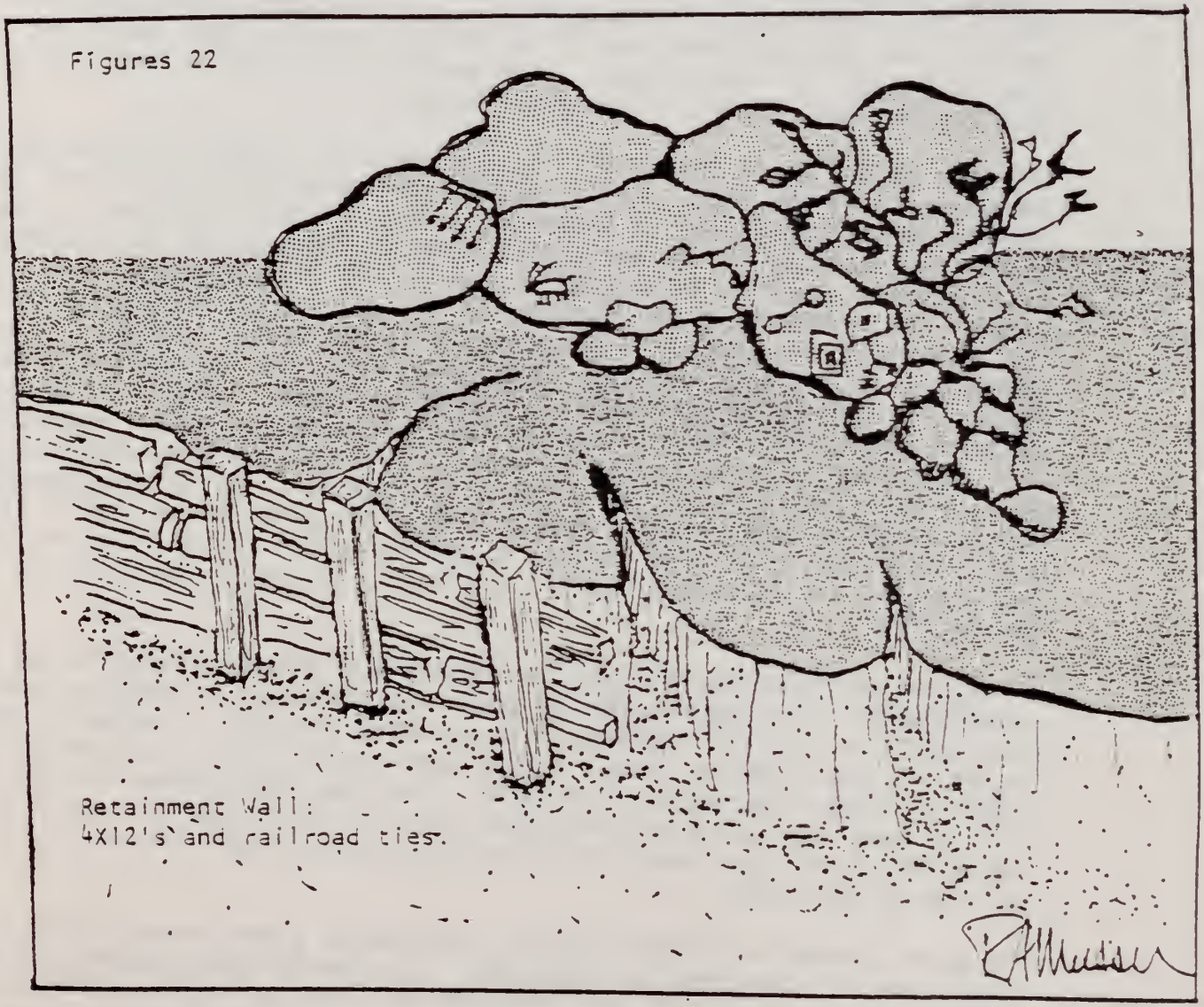
Methods of stabilizing this bench have been discussed by the public who commented on the draft ACEC plan (see comment, Part 3C). The use of rip-rap along the wash to hold back the bank during flooding may be inappropriate since the quantity of rip-rap needed for stabilization would be expensive and difficult to transport. However, William Mann (of SBC Museum) volunteered the use of his 988C loader and possibly some help from museum members. He felt that the use of locally occurring native rock would be less visually abtrusive then other methods of stablizing the bank. This volunteer effort could make this option feasible.

Another method of stabilizing the bank would be to construct a retainment wall, possibly using railroad ties and 4 x 12's (see fig. 22). The area between the wall and the bank would then be filled with a mixture of rock, concrete and sand from the wash. This wall would keep cattle and vehicles from accelerating the erosion of the bench as well as protecting the bench from future flooding. Another idea was one suggested by Germaine Moon of Barstow (1981). Moon feels that steel and cement hidden by local matching rock facade would be a "more expensive, but lasting idea". Carey (1981, see comments section) feels that the best way to stabilize the bank is to fill in an area between two rows of chicken wire with rock.

On the other hand, some feel that stabilization is not needed and nature should be allowed to take its course (see comment section of this plan). Because there was concern that bank stabilization is unnecessary, this plan opts for holding off on construction. A monitoring program will be designed to ascertain whether the bank is unstable enough to threaten the security of the remainder of the resources located atop the bench. Construction of bank stabilizers will begin if a significant volume of the bank/bench appears to be wearing away.

Implementation: Measure incremental erosion of the bench biannually using the baseline data gathered during inventory of Camp Rock Spring ACEC. Based upon the measurements taken of the bench in 1981, it should be possible to determine the rate of erosion of the bench. If bank erosion exceeds 15% of the 1981 base volume, construct the retainment wall as described above. If erosion is apparent at a minimal distance of 10 feet from Key Cultural features, construction of a retainment wall should be initiated.

Figures 22



VII. Monitoring Plan

Monitoring Resource improvement or decline at Camp Rock Spring will be the key to successful management of the ACEC. A report will be prepared yearly in June and submitted to the California Desert District Office ACEC coordinator. This report will be based upon findings made during regular inspection of the ACEC during the year.

The report will: (a) detail current condition of the site, (b) reflect trends, (c) discuss probable and known causes of the improvement or decline of the resource conditions, (d) evaluate the effectiveness of the proposed actions in this activity plan, and (e) suggest and recommend corrective measures where appropriate.

In order to complete this report, Camp Rock Spring will need to be inspected on a regular basis. A check sheet (shown in Figure 23) will be used to document each inspection. If problems/changes are observed, the appropriate box on the check sheet will be marked. In other words, the observor will quantify new problems observed at the ACEC by checking the dated box under the specific problem area. The problem will then be detailed on an attached Incident Report as discussed below.

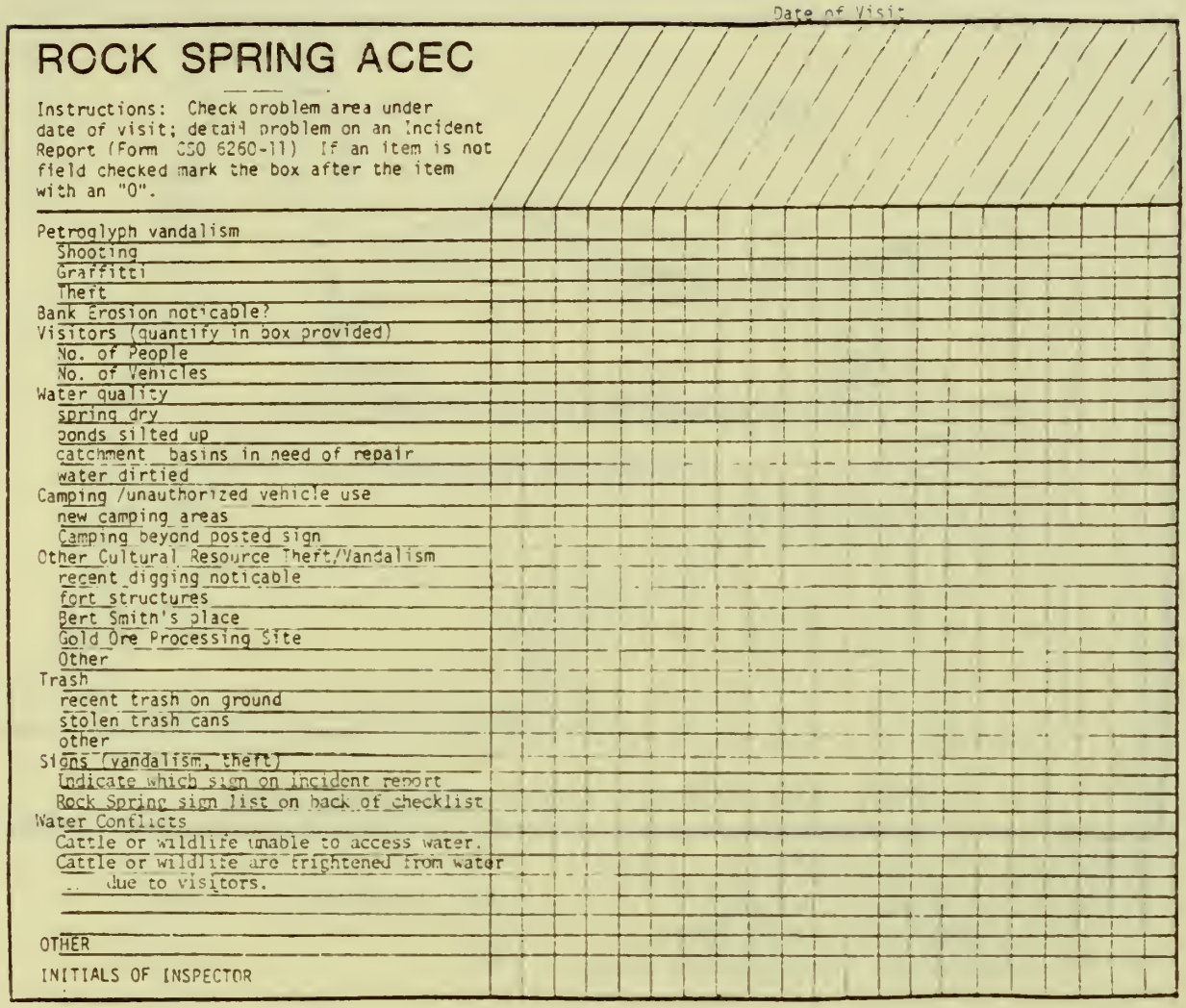
The back of the check sheet will include locational data of resources and improvements at the ACEC. Locations of each petroglyph panel (rock face bearing petroglyphs) will be shown on the map and will be keyed to photographs and sketches of the petroglyph panels. Photographs and sketches will indicate specific locations of each petroglyph element on a particular panel. The photographs and sketches of the petroglyphs will be attached to the checksheet and placed in the Midhills Patrol Sector Logbook. The checksheet, along with the locational data, will then be available for any ranger who will be patrolling in the Midhills sector. They will simply need to carry the patrol log with them as usual. In making their inspection, they will need only to refer to the locational data and the checksheet to know what is necessary to inspect, and what to look for. Extra checksheets will be available to other Needles Resource Area personnel to be kept in their field cases and to be used if passing by the ACEC. The maintenance person may also use the checksheet during the course of regular maintenance duties at the site.

Using the Incident Report form for reporting problems at Rock Spring has the advantage of tying the monitoring plan into the existing computerized data bank used for logging incidents in the Desert district. Copies of the Incident Report will be filed as usual in this bank as well as in the Needles Resource Area file under Camp Rock Spring ACEC. The Camp Rock Spring Incident Reports will be compiled yearly and included with the checksheet and annual monitoring report which will be submitted to the California Desert District Office in June of each year.

The above inspection program can be implemented after inventory and locational mapping of the resources is completed. The photographic record and other inventory data which shall be completed as a part of this activity plan (refer to VI-H) shall be used as the baseline data for comparing the current resource status.

The proposed reporting system (using Incident Reports to detail problems at the site) will be extremely useful in determining the types of activities at the ACEC which cause the greatest problems. The incident report will include a narrative on: 1) the nature of the problem/change, 2) known or probable cause of the problem/change, and 3) necessary corrective measures. At the end of each year, problems will be quantified; over a two or three year period patterns of resource degradation can be determined and may require alterations in this management plan.

During this monitoring program any level of adverse impact or degradation of the ACEC or features of the ACEC will require immediate management attention except for the bank stabilization. The amount of erosion of the bank which will require management attention has been established in this plan. Where vandalism, theft or other problems are noted to occur at the ACEC, immediate modification of management actions will take place to correct or mitigate the problem situation.



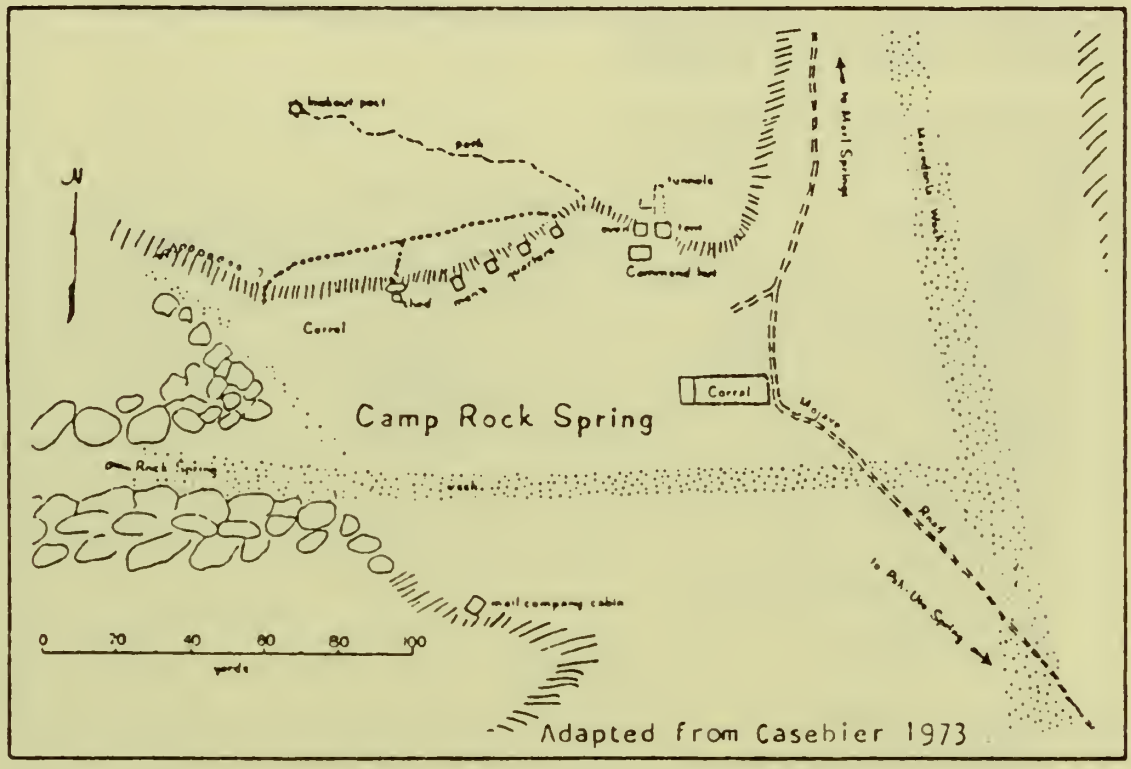
ROCK SPRING ACEC

Instructions: Check problem area under date of visit; detail problem on an Incident Report (Form CSO 6260-11) If an item is not field checked mark the box after the item with an "0".

Date of Visit

Petroglyph vandalism
Shooting
Graffitti
Theft
Bank Erosion noticable?
Visitors (quantify in box provided)
No. of People
No. of Vehicles
Water quality
spring dry
ponds silted up
catchment basins in need of repair
water dirtied
Camping /unauthorized vehicle use
new camping areas
Camping beyond posted sign
Other Cultural Resource Theft/Vandalism
recent digging noticable
fort structures
Bert Smith's place
Gold Ore Processing Site
Other
Trash
recent trash on ground
stolen trash cans
other
Signs (vandalism, theft)
Indicate which sign on incident report
Rock Spring sign list on back of checklist
Water Conflicts
Cattle or wildlife unable to access water.
Cattle or wildlife are frightened from water due to visitors.
OTHER
INITIALS OF INSPECTOR

Figure 23: Rock Spring ACEC Monitoring Checksheet to be used by Rangers and other patrolling BLM personnel.



IDENTIFIABLE REMAINS AT CAMP ROCK SPRING TODAY

Check status of the following signs:

1) E. Clampus Vitus sign
2) Informational sign board
3) Samarokwai Interpretive sign
4) Interpretive signs 1 - 5
5)
6)

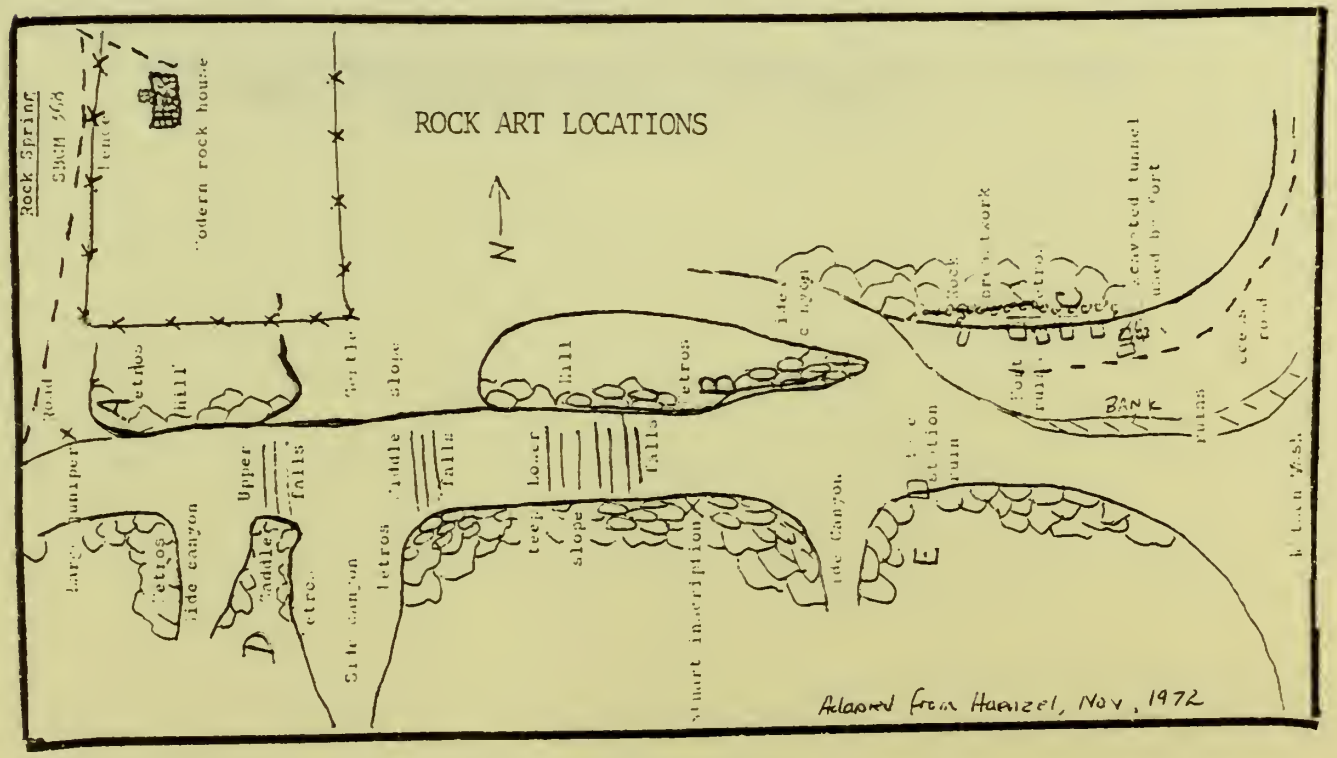


Figure 23 continued

VIII. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN AND SCHEDULE
(with cost estimates)

VIII. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN AND SCHEDULE (with Cost Estimates)

TABLE I - Fiscal Year 1981

ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	COST	WORK MONTHS
1. Photograph, sketch, map petroglyphs Refer to VI A for details.	Resource Area Archeologist will work with Cal-4-Wheel Drive to complete this action on a volunteer basis on April 25 and 26, 1981	NO COST	.5
2. Institute a monitoring plan beginning in June, 1981 and report conditions in an annual report. Refer to VI-H for details.	Rangers/Archeologist/other resource area personnel will accomplish as appropriate.		1.0 per year
3. Nominate ACEC to the National Register of Historic Places. Refer to VI-B for details.	This action will be completed on contract . Resource Area Archeologist will submit purchase order request.	$475.00	.25
4. Designate the day use/parking area as a safety zone. Refer to VI-G for details.	Needles Resource Area	NO COST	
5. Recommend to the California Dept. of Fish and Game that the spring area be closed to hunting. Refer to VI-G for details	Fish and Game/Needles Resource Area	NO COST	
6. Provide a perpetual easement (right-of-way) to the Bureau of Land Management as an interim measure until ACEC can be withdrawn from mineral entry. (Refer to VI-E for details.	Needles Resource Area Realty Specialist/Archeologist		.5
	TOTAL FOR FY'81	$475.00	2.25

ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	COST	WORK MONTHS
1. Install the interpretive sign board Refer to VI-D for details.	Needles Resource Area Operations/YACC/volunteers Associated Blazers	$1,500.00 (Blazers may fund)	.5
2. Install the interpretive brochure. Refer to VI-D for details.	Needles Resource Area/Public Affairs Associated Blazers	1,000.00 (Blazers may fund)	.5
Purchase of historical photos.		500.00	
3. Install the interpretive trail markers (5 markers @ $20 each). Refer to VI-D for details.	Operations/YACC/Needles Resource Area Staff/volunteers	100.00 (Blazers may fund)	.25
4. Install Interpretive Samarokwai Refer to VI-D for details.	Needles Resource Area Archeologist will work with volunteers - Chemehuevi Indian Reservation and Needles Chapter Boy Scouts of America.	NO COST	.25
5. Complete a Memorandum of Agreement with OX Land and Cattle Company. Refer to VI-D for details.	Needles Resource Area Archeologist, Realty Specialist and OX		.5
6. Install two trash receptacles Refer to VI-F for details.	YACC (Cost is for materials). Volunteers	80.00	
&. Repair and modify existing concrete catchment basins. Refer toVI-G for details.	Needles Resource Area Biologist and YACC/volunteers	50.00	.25
8. Collect surface artifacts and retain in a Camp Rock Spring Study Collection. Refer to VI-B for details	Archeologist will complete collection coordination with Museum for curation. Cabinet Cost	100.00	.5
9. Barricade access route to bench/fort area. Refer to VI-B for details.	Installation will be completed by YACC. Materials needed include:		
	Concrete (10 bags)	50.00	
	Posts (15 5" diameter X 5' lengths)	200.00	
	Cable (1" in diameter X 100' length)	150.00	

TABLE II - Continued

TABLE II - (Continued)

ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	COST	WORK MONTHS
10. Withdraw ACEC from mineral entry Refer to VI-B for details.	Needles Resource Area Realty Specialist and Archeologist		.5
11. Develop interpretive talk for presentation at the ACEC. See VI-D.	Needles Rsource Area Interpretive Specialist		.5
12. Make Latex molds of the most vulnerable and removable petroglyphs (6 molds at $50.00 ea.) Refer to VI-A for details.	Contract. Purchase order will be su mitted by the Needles Resource Area Archeologist	$300.00	
	TOTAL FOR FY '82	4,030.00	3.75 plus 1 mo. for baseline monitoring.

TABLE III - Fiscal Year 1983 or later

ACTION	RESPONSIBLITTY	COST	WORK MONTHS
1. Construct a retainment wall along the bank if necessity is indicated during monitoring phase of this plan. (Refer to VI-I for details.)	YACC/Operations Cost is for materials Volunteers	$3,000.00	.5
2. Pending indications of need during the monitoring phase of this paln, develop a pipeline and wildlife drinker. Refer to VI-G for details.	YACC/Operations Cost is for materials Volunteers	2,000.00	
	TOTAL FOR FY '83 or later	$5,000.00	.5 plus 1 mo. per year for baseline mon.

SUMMARY COSTS:	Cost	(plus)	Work Months
Fiscal Year 1981	$ 475.00		2.25
Fiscal Year 1982	4,030.00		4.75
Fiscal Year 1983 or later	5,000.00		1.50 plus 1.00 per year
Cost for all Phases	9,505.00		8.50 plus 1.00 per year after 1983
plus 10% contingency	900.50		
TOTAL COST	10,405.50		8.50 plus 1.00 per year after 1983

PART II

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT RECORD
(Minimal Acceptable Documentation)

for

CAMP ROCK SPRING ACEC MANAGEMENT PLAN
and Implementation

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT RECORD

(Minimal Acceptable Documentation)

Summary of Proposed Actions: For a summary of the major recommendations made in the Camp RockSpring Management Plan see Section III. For details of the planned actions see Section VI.

Existing Environment: For a description of the existing environment found at Camp Rock Spring refer to Seciton IV "Background and Resource Summary".

Anticipated Impacts: Since this Management Plan was developed with the protection and enhancement of cultural resources as the main objective, most of the actions proposed if implemented will be highly beneficial to the extant cultural resources. The interpretive measures proposed will have no direct negative impact upon the cultural resources and will have a positive effect of educating the public as to the need of protecting the resource. The interpretation measures may potentially bring the site to the attention of potential vandals and pothunters, however, locational data for the site is readily available at the present time. Collection of surface artifacts is considered to be a protection measure, althougn removal of artifacts does destroy their integrity of location; this minor degradation can be mitigated by properly recording provenience.

Construction of the signboard, trail markers, trash cans and road barriers will be implemented under the direction of the Needles Resource Area Archeologist who will assure that cultural remains are avoided.

Construction of the parking area would entail the loss of some vegetation. This loss would be minimal and negligible as practically all of the vegetation is cheesebush (a very common species) and the area is already disturbed. In addition, controlling access will prevent or reduce further impact to cordoned off areas.

A very minor negative impact would result from the erection of the interpretive signboard, numbered posts and the raking of foot trails. These actions could lead to the loss of some vegetation. Control or elimination of indiscriminate shooting will positively affect local wildlife for the obvious reasons.

Enhancement of existing waters or construction of new ones will benefit local wildlife by increasing quantity and availability of this critical resource. Additional water will not necessarily increase cattle use of the spring since federal controls have been placed on the population of cattle there. Because of these controls, additional water will not attract more cattle, but will instead be available for wildlife. Piping water off from the spirng and creating a new drinker for wildlife will also enhance the existing environment for wildlife.

Protection of additional land as proposed in this plan would enhance wildlife, botanical and cultural resources. Regular patrol/monitoring will be instrumental in effecting more efficient and consciencious management of all resources.

Implementation of the actions proposed in the ACEC Management Plan should not be visually evident in the characteristic landscape of the environment in and surrounding the ACEC. If one strains, one may be able to see the informational signboard from Cedar Canyon Road, but this and all other actions will be implemented in such a way so that they will not attract visual attention.

None of the improvement recommended in the ACEC Management Plan will permanently impair wilderness values in WSA 270 (Table Mountain) since they all can be removed.

The location of the pipeline and drinker will not be determined until the monitoring plan indicates a need for the additional water. Since this area has not been assessed, the potential impacts of installation of such an improvement are unknown (refer to mitigaiton measures).

Mitigation Measures

The Needles Resource Area archeologist will be present on site during installation of improvements to insure that cultural materials are not adversely impacted. If subsurface cultural materials are located during construction activities, the area will be avoided until further mitigation measures are implemented.

Prior to installation of the pipeline and drinker, this environmental assessment will be amended to address the area which would be impacted by such an action.

The annual status report of the Camp Rock Spring ACEC may indicate additional acitons which would be necessary to properly manage and protect the resource values. These acitons would be proceded by an amendment to this environmental document as appropriate.

The environmental impacts of the proposed action have been assessed. I conclude that the proposed action is not a major Federal action which would significantly affect the quality of the human environment. Preparation of an environmental impact statement pursuant to Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, is not required.

Prepared by:

K A Musser
Team Leader, Archeologist
Needles Resource Area

9/30/81
Date

Reviewed by:

Richard E. Crowe
Area Manager,
Needles Resource Area

10/2/81
Date

Recommended by:

William H. Collins
Environmental Coordinator
California Desert District

10/7/81
Date

Approved by:

Edward E. Eaton
District Manager
California Desert District

11 2 81
Date

PART III

APPENDICES

Participating Staff

R. A. Musser Archeologist	Team Leader, Cultural Resources Overview/ Extant Cultural Resources, Samarokwa; and other design, Land Status, Access, Monitoring Plan.
John Bailey Recreation Planner	Visual Report, Interpretive Planning, Access.
James Bicket Biologist	Wildlife Report, Vegetation Report
Bev Condrey Realty Specialist	Right-of-Way, Land Status
Pam Elliot Landscape Architect	Design Consultant for Interpretive Trail Marker and Informational sign board.
Dixie Oropeza Clerk/Typist	Production
Elizabeth Sorenson Range Conservationist	Hydrology Imput, Land Status, Range Input.
Dorothy Thuston Administrative and Maint-enance Supervisor	Production
James Williams Geologist	Geology/Hydrology Report, Land Status
Duane Winters Hydrologist	Hydrology Report

Special thanks to Dixie Oropeza who volunteered her time to type this report during the hiring freeze.

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Prior to development of the Rock Spring ACEC Management Plan a public meeting was held at the site. Approximately 12 to 15 people were present at this meeting. Those attending were interested participants of the Mojave Road Rendezvous held in November of 1980. Many of the comments and suggestions expressed during that meeting went into the development of the plan. At the meeting a draft "Activity Plan Map" was routed. The participants took the liberty to comment on this draft map. These comments were either encorporated into the plan or are listed in this public comment section.

The individuals involved in the public meeting plus other interested parties were mailed a copy of the draft ACEC Management Plan on May 26, 1981. Comments on the plan received as of September 15, 1981 are summarized here.

All of the individuals who responded by commenting on the draft ACEC Management Plan agreed that there was a need for a management plan for Rock Spring. None opposed the use of the Rock Spring area as an interpretive site. Arda Haenszel, associated with the San Bernardino County Museum, commented that an interpretive program is of paramount importance here because it would "encourage the presence of moderate numbers of average visitors...which in the long run, provides the best protection for the desert - an informed and interested public."

All but one concurred with a need for establishing protective measures for the various features at the site susceptible to theft and vandalism. The opposing individual felt that "too much emphasis in the report was on protection...our interest should be in realizing the cultural value of the site...not simply providing protection" (Casebier, 1981). Not that he disagreed with specific protection measures, but instead, thought that the emphasis should be put on the use of the site for interpretive, educational and scientific purposes.

On using the site for interpretive purposes, many conflicting view points were expressed. One adamantly objected to the suggestion that increased public awareness of the site has resulted in increased vandalism (Casebier). Many encouraged the use of interpretive signing and markers (Panatonni, Casebier, Jennings, Moon and Lenz) each having their own opinion and suggestions on how the signing should be accomplished. On the other hand, two opposed interpretive signing, brochures, and the kiosk (Martins). Ender and Smith also opposed signing but wanted a brochure/ map available at the Barstow Way Station or at a kiosk for a $1.00 fee.

One couple (Martins) felt that the Bureau of Land Management could discourage vandalism by having the public at the site 24 hours a day. They suggested that the BLM provide a camping and picnic area at the ACEC so that more visitors would use the site. However, opinions varied on this matter, as well. Some felt that the BLM should provide picnicing facilities solely (Smith & Ender) while others supported the development of both a picnic and camping area (Martin, Moon, and Carey).

One individual, although in agreement with the need for a plan, was opposed to the ACEC designation because it would "pre-empt historic activities that pre-dated the establishment of Camp Rock Spring by the military. These things would include cattle ranching, hunting, and mining (Moon, 1981). In response to Moon's comments it should be stated that others (Casebier, Ausmus, Haenszel) advocated a two mile hunting restriction rather than the 500 feet restriction proposed in the plan.

As for the cattle ranching, one other individual felt that the BLM should "LEAVE THE POOR BOVINE ALONE!" (Allerton) and that if the BLM was to blame it for trampling down vegetation, petroglyphs, and rock fences we should have thought of it 87 years ago. The Eldridges of the OX Cattle Company did not respond to the request for comments, however, during a telephone conversation (with Musser, 1981) they were supportive of the construction of water catchment basins and piping water away from the spring. They have not opposed any part of the plan to date, and have agreed with the idea to enter into a cooperative agreement to interpret and patrol "Bert Smith's Place". However, they have refused the request to sell or trade this parcel.

Restriction on mining would be in the form of a mineral withdrawal. Moon's comment pointed out the need for clarification in the plan that this withdrawal would be for the immediate area of the prehistoric and historic remains of Rock Spring and would not include the entire ACEC area. It is highly doubtful that there is any mineral potential in this area, however, it would be a good location for a mill site; development of such would be devastating for the historic and prehistoric remains.

Another controvisal issue surrounded the need for bank stabilization/flood control measures along the Rock Spring wash near the army camp. Mann felt that instead of using railroad ties, local native and natural appearing rip-rap should be used. Mann volunteered the use of his 988C loader and possibly some help from the museum. Moon felt that steel and cement hidden by local matching rock (rip-rap) facade would be a "more expensive but lasting idea". She felt that the CCC could perform such a task to defray costs. Carey felt that the best way to stabilize the bank was to fill in an area between two rows of chicken wire with rock.

Others, however, felt that the bank did not need stabilization and that nature should be allowed to take its course (Smith and Ender and Casebier), however, Carey felt that bank stabilization would:

1) protect the bank from further deterioration and stop travel from the wash to the bluff by all forms of travel except foot traffic,

2) protect bluff from flash flood in wash.

Another general comment on the plan was made by Dennis Casebier, author of Camp Rock Spring (1974). He felt that "the approach to management of a place like Camp Rock Spring should be structured by time phases that are a function of increasing visitor use. No specifics were cited. In response to this comment, more emphasis will be placed upon implementation of actions contingent upon noted increase in visitor use. Already the construction of a cattle drinker away from the visitor use area is contingent upon increased use of the site by visitors. The plan must be flexible enough to allow changes or amendments to it as needed depending upon visitor use and/needs.

Many technical corrections and references were forwarded by the commenting individuals - each one greatly appreciated. The following is a list of specific actions which the respondants would like to see implemented at Rock Spring or changes which should be made in the plan:

- Feels that a 500 foot hunting restriction is inadequate (Casebier, Ausmus, Haenszel). Limitation should be at least 2 miles (Ausmus, Casebier). More frequent patrol by Rangers to watch for indescriminate shooting (Jennings).

- Post wash against vehicular entry (Jennings).

- Advocated designation of a parking area other than the one indicated in the plan (Ausmus, Casebier, Lenz). Area designated for parking in the plan is inadequate and will create undue damage to the bench at that point (Lenz, Casebier).

    1. Advocated parking area at a point west of Smith entrance (Carey).
    2. Advocated parking at Bert Smith's Place (Ausmus, Casebier).
    3. Advocated parking closer to the entrance along Cedar Canyon Road (Lenz).

- Post against camping (Jennings).

- Should restore 88 water trough (Ausmus).

- Encourages piping water away from spring to keep livestock from being frightened (Jennings, Smith & Ender).

- Thinks rainfall estimate is too low. Should contact Dick Logan (UCLA) and change the estimate in the plan (Ausmus).

- Does not support piping water away because it would mean "removing Rock Spring" (Moon).

- Feels that the bank does not need stabilization (Casebier). Should let nature take its course (Casebier).

- Feels that the bank definitely needs stabilization (Mann, Jennings, Moon, Carey) and recommends other ways of doing such (Mann, Moon, Carey).

- Indicated a need for time-phased management according to need (Casebier). (Actually this was suggested in the monitoring plan.)

- Management of Rock Spring should be consistent with the East Mojave philisophy statement (Casebier). (No specifics were stated).

- Include the Barnett or Patterson Mine and Government Holes in the Rock Spring Management Plan (Casebier).

- Off base to imply that increased public awareness has resulted in increased vandalism (Casebier).

- Questioned the problem of camping at Rock Spring (Casebier).

- Discourage vandalism by having public at site 24 hours a day - develop and provide a camping/picnic area at the ACEC (Martins).

- Provide campground (Carey, Moon).

- Provide picnic area (Smith & Ender, Moon).

- Would like to see emphasis on development, not protection (Casebier).

- Would like to clarify where the study collection will be (Casebier).

- Thinks BLM should have a line item for developing a pictorial guide to Rock Spring (Casebier) using historical photos (Casebier).

- Create hiking trail from Barnett or Patterson Mine to Government Holes and back to Rock Spring (Casebier).

- Disagrees that petroglyphs are likely to be stolen (Casebier).

- Should post against collecting artifacts (Jennings).

- Trail markers should be limited to botanical interpretation, and a guidebook or brochure should be used for historical interpretation (Casebier). Suggests the use of photos keyed into an area map (Casebier).

- Leave the numbered posts natural. Do not paint (Martin).

- Encourages the use of interpretive signs and markers (Panatonni).

- Encourages the use of more information interpretive signs (Jennings).

- Opposes kiosk, interpretive signing, brochures, (Martin).

- Encourages "plant and critters identification stakes for visitors" (Moon).

- Recommends petroglyph locations be shown on map in report (Casebier, Haenstel).

- Should make provisions in budget to acquire a set of current and historical photos of Rock Spring.

- Objects to term "Camp" in the title of the ACEC (for historical reasons) (Moon).

- Objects to the use of "Springs" instead of "Spring" in Camp Rock Spring or Rock Spring (Casebier).

- Disagrees with parts of history section (Moon, Casebier).

- Need minor design change in the kiosk (Elliot).

- Questions the value of latex molds of the petroglyphs (Martin).

- Should not make people walk too far to get to site, however, barricade before getting to the site area which contains surface artifacts (Martin).

- Cost of sign is too high for purpose desired to acheive. Brochures should be available at visitor center. Empty brochure holder damages BLM image (Martin). (In response to this comment, it should be stated that the Associated Blazers (personal communication with Toni Lenz 8/81) may volunteer the materials and construction of the kiosk as well as the printing of the brochures).

- Opposes installation of trash barrels (Martin). Thinks a sign saying "You haul it in - You haul it out" will produce better results (Martin).

- Acquire Bert Smith's Place (Casebier, Tucker, Ender, Smith, Carey, Moon, Moore, Martin). (This was addressed in the plan - the Eldridges prefer not to sell or trade this parcel; they have already been confronted with this proposal).

- Agrees with cooperative agreement with Eldridges on use of Bert Smith's Place (Ausmus).

- Need to monitor potential water use conflicts between livestock and wildlife. A monitoring plan should be described in the "Planned Action" section of the ACEC Management Plan (Olech).

- Encourage piping water away from spring to keep livestock from being frightened (Jennings, Carey).

- Encourages cleaning of spring ponds to be kept useable by wild animals (Moore).

- Advocates a sign along the wash area indicating the use of four-wheel drives only (Lenz).

- Encourages posting of a "day use only" sign at entrance to Rock Spring (Lenz).

- Encourages fencing along the bank of the bench and posting that the fence is for the safety of those on the bench (not to keep the vehicles from possibly climbing the side onto the bench). (Lenz)

- Advocates the use of "positive" signing (Lenz).

- Offered donated time and materials for projects related to Camp Rock Spring. Associated Blazers would like to "adopt" the site (Lenz).

- Would like clarification on how plan relates to CDCA Plan and to the management prescription in Appendix C of the plan (Disparte).

- Would like justification for enhancing wildlife environment when the plan is supposed to be for cultural resources (Eg. the plan is a multiple use plan, therefore...) (Disparte).

- Wonders if Rock Spring receive sufficient visitor use days to warrant stationing an interpretive person there (Disparte).

- Opposes construction of replica Samarokwai (Martin).
- Opposes construction of post and cable barrier (Martin).
- Should reconstruct the mine adits which were dug not so long ago (Moon).
- Should reconstruct historic cabin (lower stone works) ruins with canvas covers. (Moon).
- Need speed limit sign on Cedar Canyon Road (Moon).

COMMENTING PUBLIC

Toni Lenz
Associated Blazers

Harry Tucker
H & T Enterprises

Bob Ausmus
Cima General Store

William Mann
Board of Directors
San Bernardino County Museum

Dennis Casebier
Author of CAMP ROCK SPRING

Germain Moon
Mojave River Valley Museum
Barstow

R. N. Martin

P. Elliot
Bureau of Land Management

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Rancho Cucamonga

Arda M. Haenszel
San Bernardino County Museum

Bill Jennings
Boyd Deep Canyon
Desert Research Center

Frank Disparte, Community
Planner
BLM-CDD Office

Jerome Needy, Ranger
Needles Resource Area
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